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- **IGUCHI, Moegi**
Minamiashigara-shi, Kanagawa (JP)
- **SAITO, Yutaka**
Minamiashigara-shi, Kanagawa (JP)
- **TASAKI, Mona**
Minamiashigara-shi, Kanagawa (JP)
- **KAKEHI, Soutaro**
Minamiashigara-shi, Kanagawa (JP)
- **TAKAHASHI, Sakon**
Minamiashigara-shi, Kanagawa (JP)

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(71) Applicant: **FUJI XEROX CO., LTD**
Minato-ku
Tokyo (JP)

(74) Representative: **Haseltine Lake LLP**
Bürkleinstrasse 10
80538 München (DE)

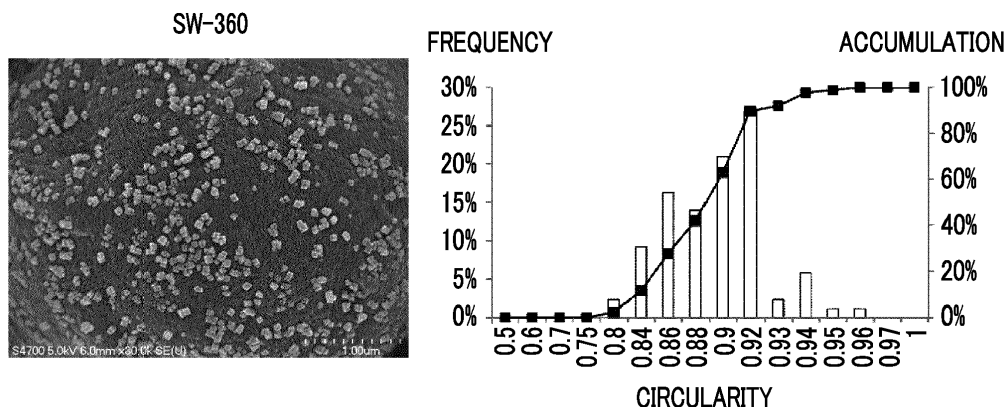
(72) Inventors:
• **YAMAGISHI, Yuka**
Minamiashigara-shi, Kanagawa (JP)

(54) **ELECTROSTATIC CHARGE IMAGE DEVELOPING TONER, ELECTROSTATIC CHARGE IMAGE DEVELOPER, TONER CARTRIDGE, PROCESS CARTRIDGE, IMAGE FORMING DEVICE, AND IMAGE FORMING METHOD**

(57) An electrostatic charge image developing toner includes: a toner particle having average circularity of 0.91 or more and 0.98 or less, a silica particle externally added to the toner particle, and a strontium titanate particle that is externally added to the toner particle, that has

an average primary particle diameter of 10 nm or more and 100 nm or less, that has average primary particle circularity of 0.82 or more and 0.94 or less, and circularity that becomes 84% of accumulation of the primary particle of more than 0.92.

FIG. 1A



Description

BACKGROUND

5 Technical Field

[0001] The present invention relates to an electrostatic charge image developing toner, an electrostatic charge image developer, and a toner cartridge.

10 Related Art

[0002] Patent Literature 1 discloses a toner in which an amorphous fine particle, monodispersed spherical silica, and an organic compound are externally added to a toner particle.

15 **[0003]** Patent Literature 2 discloses a toner in which a strontium titanate fine particle and a hydrophobic inorganic fine particle are externally added to a toner particle.

[0004] Patent Literature 3 discloses a toner in which negatively charged silica which is hydrophobized, rutile anatase mixed crystal titanium oxide, and hydrophobized strontium titanate are externally added to a toner particle.

[0005] Patent Literature 4 discloses a developer containing a toner, and cubic shaped or rectangular parallelepiped shaped strontium titanate as an abrasive particle.

20 **[0006]** Patent Literature 5 discloses a toner in which a negatively charged silica fine particle and a positively charged strontium titanate fine particle are externally added to a toner particle.

[0007] Patent Literature 6 discloses a toner in which rectangular parallelepiped shaped strontium titanate and hydrophobic silica are externally added to a toner particle.

25 **[0008]** Patent Literature 7 discloses a toner in which hydrophobic silica, hydrophobic titania, strontium titanate, and zinc stearate are externally added to a toner base particle.

Citation List

Patent Literature

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[0009]

[Patent Literature 1] JP-A-2002-318467

[Patent Literature 2] JP-A-2005-148405

35 [Patent Literature 3] JP-A-2007-093732

[Patent Literature 4] JP-A-2011-203758

[Patent Literature 5] JP-A-2015-084095

[Patent Literature 6] JP-B-5248511

[Patent Literature 7] JP-B-5166164

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Summary

45 **[0010]** The invention is to provide an electrostatic charge image developing toner, which is excellent in transfer maintenance property as compared with an electrostatic charge image developing toner containing only silica particle and a titania particle as external additives.

[0011] According to an aspect of the invention, there is provided an electrostatic charge image developing toner including: a toner particle having circularity of 0.91 or more and 0.98 or less; a silica particle externally added to the toner particle; and a strontium titanate particle that is externally added to the toner particle, that has an average primary particle diameter of 10 nm or more and 100 nm or less, that has average primary particle circularity of 0.82 or more and 0.94 or less, and circularity that becomes 84% of accumulation of the primary particle of more than 0.92.

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<1> According to an aspect of the invention, there is provided an electrostatic charge image developing toner including:

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a toner particle having average circularity of about 0.91 or more and about 0.98 or less;

a silica particle externally added to the toner particle; and

a strontium titanate particle that is externally added to the toner particle, that has an average primary particle diameter of about 10 nm or more and about 100 nm or less, that has average primary particle circularity of about

0.82 or more and about 0.94 or less, and circularity that becomes about 84% of accumulation of the primary particle of more than about 0.92.

<2> In the electrostatic charge image developing toner according to <1>,

an average primary particle diameter of the strontium titanate particle may be about 20 nm or more and about 80 nm or less.

<3> In the electrostatic charge image developing toner according to <2>,

an average primary particle diameter of the strontium titanate particle may be about 30 nm or more and about 60 nm or less.

<4> In the electrostatic charge image developing toner according to any one of <1> to <3>,

the strontium titanate particle, a half-width of a peak of a about 110 plane obtained by an X-ray diffraction method may be about 0.2° or more and about 2.0° or less.

<5> In the electrostatic charge image developing toner according to any one of <1> to <4>,

the strontium titanate particle may be a strontium titanate particle doped with a metal element other than titanium and strontium.

<6> In the electrostatic charge image developing toner according to <5>,

the strontium titanate particle may be a strontium titanate particle doped with a metal element having electronegativity of about 2.0 or less.

<7> In the electrostatic charge image developing toner according to <6>,

the strontium titanate particle may be a strontium titanate particle doped with lanthanum.

<8> In the electrostatic charge image developing toner according to any one of <1> to <7>,

a moisture content of the strontium titanate particle may be about 1.5 mass% or more and about 10 mass% or less.

<9> In the electrostatic charge image developing toner according to <8>,

a moisture content of the strontium titanate particle may be about 2 mass% or more and about 5 mass% or less.

<10> In the electrostatic charge image developing toner according to any one of <1> to <9>,

the strontium titanate particle may be a strontium titanate particle having a hydrophobized surface.

<11> In the electrostatic charge image developing toner according to <10>,

the strontium titanate particle may be a strontium titanate particle having a surface hydrophobized with a silicon-containing organic compound.

<12> In the electrostatic charge image developing toner according to any one of <1> to <11>,

average circularity of the toner particle may be about 0.94 or more and about 0.98 or less.

<13> In the electrostatic charge image developing toner according to any one of <1> to <12>,

the silica particle may have a primary particle diameter of about 70 nm or more and about 200 nm or less.

<14> In the electrostatic charge image developing toner according to <13>,

average primary particle circularity of the silica particle may be about 0.90 or more and about 1.00 or less.

<15> In the electrostatic charge image developing toner according to <13> or <14>,

a difference between average primary particle circularity of the silica particle and average primary particle circularity of the strontium titanate particle may be about 0.15 or less.

<16> In the electrostatic charge image developing toner according to any one of <13> to <15>,

wherein a difference between an average primary particle diameter of the silica particle and an average primary particle diameter of the strontium titanate particle is about 20 nm or more and about 180 nm or less.

<17> According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided an electrostatic charge image developer including the electrostatic charge image developing toner according to any one of <1> to <16>.

<18> According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a toner cartridge including a container that accommodates the electrostatic charge image developing toner according to any one of <1> to <16>,

wherein the toner cartridge is detachably attached to an image forming device.

<19> According to an aspect of the invention, there is provided a process cartridge including:

a developing unit that houses the electrostatic charge image developer according to <17>, and develops an electrostatic charge image formed on a surface of an image holder as a toner image by the electrostatic charge image developer,

wherein the process cartridge may be detachably attached to an image forming device.

<20> According to an aspect of the invention, there is provided an image forming device including:

an image holder;

a charging unit that charges a surface of the image holder;

an electrostatic charge image forming unit that forms an electrostatic charge image on the surface of the charged

image holder;

a developing unit that houses the electrostatic charge image developer according to <17>, and that develops the electrostatic charge image formed on the surface of the image holder as a toner image by the electrostatic charge image developer;

a transfer unit that transfers the toner image formed on the surface of the image holder onto a surface of a record medium; and

a fixing unit that fixes the transferred toner image onto the surface of the record medium.

<21> According to an aspect of the invention, there is provided an image forming method, including:

charging a surface of an image holder;

forming an electrostatic charge image on the surface of the charged image holder;

developing the electrostatic charge image formed on the surface of the image holder as a toner image by the electrostatic charge image developer according to <17>;

transferring the toner image formed on the surface of the image holder onto a surface of a record medium; and

fixing the transferred toner image onto the surface of the record medium.

Advantageous Effects of the Invention

[0012] According to <1> of the invention, as compared with an electrostatic charge image developing toner containing only a silica particle and a titania particle as external additives, an electrostatic charge image developing toner excellent in transfer maintenance property is provided.

[0013] According to <2> of the invention, as compared with a case where the average primary particle diameter of the strontium titanate particle is less than 20 nm, an electrostatic charge image developing toner excellent in flowability is provided.

[0014] According to <3> of the invention, as compared with a case where the average primary particle diameter of the strontium titanate particle is less than 30 nm, an electrostatic charge image developing toner excellent in flowability is provided.

[0015] According to <4> of the invention, as compared with a case of using a strontium titanate particle having a half-width of a peak of a 110 plane obtained by the X-ray diffraction method less than 0.2°, an electrostatic charge image developing toner excellent in transfer maintenance property is provided.

[0016] According to <5>, <6>, and <7> of the invention, as compared with a case of using a strontium titanate particle doped with a metal element of titanium and strontium, an electrostatic charge image developing toner excellent in transfer maintenance property is provided.

[0017] According to <8> of the invention, as compared with a case where the moisture content of the strontium titanate particle is less than 1.5 mass%, an electrostatic charge image developing toner excellent in transfer property is provided.

[0018] According to <9> of the invention, as compared with a case where the moisture content of the strontium titanate particle is less than 2 mass%, an electrostatic charge image developing toner excellent in transfer property is provided.

[0019] According to <10> or <11> of the invention, as compared with a case where the surface of the strontium titanate particle is not hydrophobized, an electrostatic charge image developing toner excellent in transfer maintenance property is provided.

[0020] According to <12> to <16> of the invention, as compared with an electrostatic charge image developing toner containing only a silica particle and a titania particle as external additives, an electrostatic charge image developing toner excellent in transfer maintenance property is provided.

[0021] According to <17> of the invention, as compared with an electrostatic charge image developing toner containing only a silica particle and a titania particle as external additives, an electrostatic charge image developer containing an electrostatic charge image developing toner excellent in transfer maintenance property is provided.

[0022] According to <18> of the invention, as compared with an electrostatic charge image developing toner containing only a silica particle and a titania particle as external additives, a toner cartridge housing an electrostatic charge image developing toner excellent in transfer maintenance property is provided.

[0023] According to <19>, <20>, and <21> of the invention, as compared with an electrostatic charge image developing toner containing only a silica particle and a titania particle as external additives, a process cartridge, an image forming device, or an image forming method is provided, to which an electrostatic charge image developer containing an electrostatic charge image developing toner excellent in transfer maintenance property is applied.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0024] Exemplary embodiment(s) of the present invention will be described in detail based on the following figures,

wherein:

Fig. 1A is an SEM image of a toner obtained by externally adding SW-360 manufactured by Titan Kogyo, Ltd. which is an example of a strontium titanate particle and a graph of circularity distribution of strontium titanate particle obtained by analyzing the SEM image;

Fig. 1B is an SEM image of a toner obtained by externally adding another strontium titanate particle and a graph of circularity distribution of strontium titanate particle obtained by analyzing the SEM image;

Fig. 2 is a schematic view illustrating an example of a configuration of an image forming device of this exemplary embodiment; and

Fig. 3 is a schematic view illustrating an example of a configuration of a process cartridge of this exemplary embodiment that is detachably attached to an image forming device.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0025] Hereinafter, exemplary embodiments of the present invention are described. These descriptions and examples exemplify the exemplary embodiments and do not limit the scope of the invention.

[0026] In the present disclosure, in a case of referring to the amount of each component in the composition, in a case where there are plural kinds of substances corresponding to each component in the composition, unless described otherwise, the amount means a total amount of plural substances.

[0027] In the present specification, the numerical range expressed by using "to" means a range including numerical values described before and after "to" as a lower limit value and an upper limit value.

[0028] In this disclosure, an "electrostatic charge image developing toner" is simply referred to a toner, and an "electrostatic charge image developer" is simply referred to as a "developing agent".

Electrostatic charge Image Developing Toner

[0029] The toner according to this exemplary embodiment includes a toner particle having average circularity of 0.91 or more and 0.98 or less, a silica particle that is externally added to the toner particle, and a strontium titanate particle that is externally added to the toner particle, that has an average primary particle diameter of 10 nm or more and 100 nm or less, that has average primary particle circularity of 0.82 or more and 0.94 or less, and circularity that becomes 84% of the accumulation of the primary particle of more than 0.92.

[0030] Hereinafter, a strontium titanate particle in which an average primary particle diameter is 10 nm or more and 100 nm or less, average primary particle circularity is 0.82 or more and 0.94 or less, and circularity that becomes 84% of accumulation of the primary particle is more than 0.92 is referred to as a specific strontium titanate particle.

[0031] The toner according to this exemplary embodiment does not contain a specific strontium titanate particle, and has more excellent transfer maintaining properties compared with a toner including a titania particle. As the mechanism, the following is assumed.

[0032] In the related art, the toner particle (for example, toner particles having average circularity of 0.91 or more and 0.98 or less) having an irregular shape is used for the purpose of improving the cleaning properties of the toner from the image holding member. As the external additive, the silica particle for the purpose of improving transferability of the toner is used, and the titania particle is used for the purpose of improving the fluidity of the toner and charging properties.

[0033] Both of the silica particle and the titania particle are negatively chargeable and electrostatically repel each other on the toner particles, the silica particle has weaker adhesion force than toner particles than titania particles, and thus there is a tendency that the silica particle rolls on the surface of the toner particles and is unevenly distributed in the recessed part of the toner particle having an irregular shape. As a result that the silica particle is unevenly distributed on the recessed part of the toner particle having an irregular shape, expected transferability may be obtained. Particularly, in an environment of low temperature and low humidity (in an environment in which the external additive easily moves on the toner particles) or after an image with a low image area ratio is continuously formed (after a mechanical load is repeatedly applied to the toner in the developing device), the transferability is reduced.

[0034] On the other hand, the specific strontium titanate particles are negatively chargeable like the titania particles used in the related art and have substantially the same particle size, and thus may be used instead of the titania particles for the purpose of improving the fluidity and chargeability of the toner. The material and the shape of the specific strontium titanate particles are (a), (b) and (c), and thus it is assumed that the expected transferability of the toner is maintained.

(A) The specific strontium titanate particles have smaller electrostatic repulsive force generated with the silica particles than the titania particles, and thus the effect of transferring the silica particles to the recessed part of the toner particle having an irregular shape is weak. Therefore, in the toner having an irregular shape to which the specific strontium titanate particles are externally added, compared with the irregularly shaped toner to which the

titanium particles are externally added, uneven distribution of the silica particle in the recessed part of the toner particle having an irregular shape. (B) It is considered that, since the specific strontium titanate particle has a rounded shape (details are described below), local concentration of charges on the particle surface hardly occurs compared with a cubic or rectangular strontium titanate particle, the electrostatic repulsive force with the silica particles is relatively small, and it is difficult to cause uneven distribution of silica particles. (c) The strontium titanate particle having an average primary particle diameter of less than 10 nm is easily buried in the toner particle, and it is difficult to exhibit the effect of improving the fluidity of the toner. The strontium titanate particle having an average primary particle diameter of more than 100 nm is hardly fixed on the toner particle and thus easily separated, and it is difficult to exhibit the effect of improving the fluidity of the toner. The specific strontium titanate particle has an average primary particle diameter of 10 nm or more and 100 nm or less, and thus the effect of improving the fluidity of the toner is exhibited.

[0035] With respect to (a), (b), and (c), it is assumed that the toner according to this exemplary embodiment secures fluidity of the toner and excellent transfer maintainability.

[0036] Hereinafter, the configuration of manufacturing the toner according to this exemplary embodiment is specifically described.

Toner Particle

[0037] Examples of the toner particle include a binder resin and, if necessary, a colorant, a release agent, and other additives.

Binder Resin

[0038] Examples of the binder resin include a homopolymer of a monomer such as styrenes (for example, styrene, parachlorostyrene, and α -methylstyrene), (meth)acrylic acid esters (for example, methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-propyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, lauryl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, n-propyl methacrylate, lauryl methacrylate, and 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate), ethylenically unsaturated nitriles (for example, acrylonitrile and methacrylonitrile), vinyl ethers (for example, vinyl methyl ether and vinyl isobutyl ether), vinyl ketones (for example, vinyl methyl ketone, vinyl ethyl ketone, and vinyl isopropenyl ketone), and olefins (for example, ethylene, propylene, and butadiene), or a vinyl-based resin including a copolymer obtained by combining two or more of these monomers.

[0039] Examples of the binder resin include a non-vinyl based resin such as an epoxy resin, a polyester resin, a polyurethane resin, a polyamide resin, a cellulose resin, a polyether resin, and a modified rosin, a mixture of these and the vinyl-based resin, or a graft polymer obtained by polymerizing a vinyl-based monomer in the coexistence thereof.

[0040] These binder resins may be used singly or two or more kinds thereof may be used in combination.

[0041] As the binder resin, a polyester resin may be used. Examples of the polyester resin include a condensation polymer of polyvalent carboxylic acid and polyhydric alcohol.

[0042] Examples of the polyvalent carboxylic acid include aliphatic dicarboxylic acid (for example, oxalic acid, malonic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, citraconic acid, itaconic acid, glutaconic acid, succinic acid, alkenylsuccinic acid, adipic acid, and sebacic acid), alicyclic dicarboxylic acid (such as cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid), aromatic dicarboxylic acid (for example, terephthalic acid, isophthalic acid, phthalic acid, and naphthalene dicarboxylic acid), anhydrides thereof, or lower alkyl ester (for example, having 1 to 5 carbon atoms) thereof. Among these, as the polyvalent carboxylic acid, for example, aromatic dicarboxylic acid is preferable.

[0043] As the polyvalent carboxylic acid, trivalent or higher valent carboxylic acid having a crosslinked structure or a branched structure may be used together with the dicarboxylic acid. Examples of the trivalent or higher valent carboxylic acid include trimellitic acid, pyromellitic acid, anhydrides thereof, or lower alkyl esters (for example, having 1 to 5 carbon atoms) thereof.

[0044] The polyvalent carboxylic acid may be used singly or two or more kinds thereof may be used in combination.

[0045] Examples of the polyhydric alcohol include aliphatic diol (for example, ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, propylene glycol, butanediol, hexanediol, and neopentyl glycol), alicyclic diol (for example, cyclohexanediol, cyclohexane dimethanol, and hydrogenated bisphenol A), aromatic diol (for example, an ethylene oxide adduct of bisphenol A and a propylene oxide adduct of bisphenol A). Among these, as the polyhydric alcohol, for example, aromatic diol or alicyclic diol is preferable, and aromatic diol is more preferable.

[0046] As the polyhydric alcohol, trihydric or higher hydric polyhydric alcohol having a crosslinked structure or a branched structure may be used together with diol. Examples of trihydric or higher hydric polyhydric alcohol include glycerin, trimethylolpropane, and pentaerythritol.

[0047] The polyhydric alcohol may be used singly or two or more kinds thereof may be used in combination.

[0048] The glass transition temperature (T_g) of the polyester resin may be 50°C or more and 80°C or less and preferably

50°C or more and 65°C or less.

[0049] The glass transition temperature is calculated from the DSC curve obtained by the differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), more specifically, is obtained from "Extrapolated glass transition onset temperature" disclosed in the method of obtaining the glass of transition temperature of "Method of measuring transition temperature of plastic" of JIS K 7121-1987.

[0050] The weight-average molecular weight (Mw) of the polyester resin may be 5,000 or more and 1,000,000 or less and preferably 7,000 or more and 500,000 or less. The number-average molecular weight (Mn) of the polyester resin may be 2,000 or more and 100,000 or less. The molecular weight distribution Mw/Mn of the polyester resin may be 1.5 or more and 100 or less and preferably 2 or more and 60 or less.

[0051] The weight-average molecular weight and the number-average molecular weight of the polyester resin are measured by gel permeation chromatography (GPC). Measuring of the molecular weight by GPC is performed in a THF solvent by using GPC•HLC-8120 GPC manufactured by Tosoh Corporation as a measuring device and using TSK gel SuperHM-M (15 cm) manufactured by Tosoh Corporation. The weight-average molecular weight and the number-average molecular weight are calculated by using a molecular weight calibration curve prepared from a monodispersed polystyrene standard sample from this measurement result.

[0052] The polyester resin may be obtained by the well-known manufacturing method. Specifically, the polyester resin may be obtained, for example, by the method of setting the polymerization temperature to be 180°C or more and 230°C or less, depressurizing the inside of the reaction system if necessary, and performing the reaction while removing water and alcohol generated during the condensation.

[0053] In a case where the monomer of the raw material does not dissolve or compatibilize at the reaction temperature, a solvent having a high boiling point may be added as a dissolution aid for dissolving. In this case, the polycondensation reaction is performed while the dissolution aid is distilled off. In a case where a monomer with bad compatibility is present, the monomer having bad compatibility and the acid or alcohol to be polycondensed with the monomer may be condensed with each other in advance, so as to be polycondensed with the major component.

[0054] The content of the binder resin may be 40 mass% or more and 95 mass% or less, preferably 50 mass% or more and 90 mass% or less, and more preferably 60 mass% or more and 85 mass% or less with respect to the entire toner particle.

Colorant

[0055] Examples of the colorant include pigments such as carbon black, chrome yellow, hansa yellow, benzidine yellow, suren yellow, quinoline yellow, pigment yellow, permanent orange GTR, pyrazolone orange, vulcan orange, watch young red, permanent red, brilliant carmine 3B, brilliant carmine 6B, dupont oil red, pyrazolone red, lithol red, rhodamine B lake, lake red C, pigment red, rose bengal, aniline blue, ultramarine blue, calco oil blue, methylene blue chloride, phthalocyanine blue, pigment blue, phthalocyanine green, and malachite green oxalate; and dyes such as acridine-based, xanthene-based, azo-based, benzoquinone-based, azine-based, anthraquinone-based, thioindigo-based, dioxazine-based, thiazine-based, azomethine-based, indico-based, phthalocyanine-based, aniline black-based, polymethine-based, triphenyl methane-based, diphenylmethane-based, and thiazole-based dyes.

[0056] The colorant may be used singly or two or more kinds thereof may be used in combination.

[0057] As the colorant, if necessary, a surface-treated colorant may be used or a dispersing agent may be used in combination. Plural colorants may be used in combination.

[0058] The content of the colorant may be 1 mass% or more and 30 mass% or less and preferably 3 mass% or more and 15 mass% or less with respect to the entire toner particle.

Releasing Agent

[0059] Examples of the release agent include hydrocarbon wax; natural wax such as carnauba wax, rice wax, and candelilla wax; synthetic or mineral/petroleum wax such as montan wax; and ester type wax such as fatty acid ester and montanic acid ester. The releasing agent is not limited thereto.

[0060] The melting temperature of the releasing agent may be 50°C or more and 110°C or less and preferably 60°C or more and 100°C or less.

[0061] The melting temperature is calculated from the DSC curve obtained by the differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) by "Melting peak temperature" disclosed in the method of obtaining the melting temperature of "Method of measuring transition temperature of plastic" of JIS K 7121-1987.

[0062] The content of the releasing agent may be 1 mass% or more and 20 mass% or less and preferably 5 mass% or more and 15 mass% or less with respect to the entire toner particle.

Other Additives

[0063] Examples of other additives include well-known additives such as a magnetic material, a charge control agent, and an inorganic powder. These additives are included in the toner particle as an internal additive.

Properties of Toner Particle

[0064] The toner particle may be a toner particle of a single layer structure or may be a toner particle of a so-called core-shell structure including a core part (core particle) and a coating layer (shell layer) coating the core part. The toner particle of a core-shell structure, for example, includes a core part including a binder resin and, if necessary, a colorant, a releasing agent, and the like, and a coating layer including a binder resin.

[0065] The volume average particle diameter (D50v) of the toner particle may be 2 μm or more and 10 μm or less and preferably 4 μm or more and 8 μm or less.

[0066] The volume average particle diameter of the toner particle is measured using COULTER MULTISIZER II (manufactured by Beckman Coulter, Inc.) and using ISOTON-II (manufactured by Beckman Coulter, Inc.) as an electrolytic solution. In the measurement, 0.5 mg or more and 50 mg or less of a measurement sample is added to 2 ml of a 5 mass% aqueous solution of a surfactant (sodium alkylbenzenesulfonate for example) as a dispersing agent. This is added to 100 ml or more and 150 ml or less of the electrolytic solution. A dispersion treatment of the electrolytic solution in which the sample is suspended is performed for one minute with an ultrasonic disperser, and the particle diameter of the particle having a particle diameter in the range of 2 μm or more and 60 μm or less is measured by using an aperture having an aperture diameter of 100 μm by COULTER MULTISIZER II. The number of sampling particles is 50,000. In the volume-based particle size distribution of the measured particle diameter, the particle diameter which becomes 50% of the accumulation from the small diameter side is defined as the volume average particle diameter D50v.

[0067] In this exemplary embodiment, in view of improving the cleaning properties of the toner from the image holding member, the average circularity of the toner particles may be 0.91 or more and 0.98 or less, preferably 0.94 or more and 0.98 or less, and more preferably 0.95 or more and 0.97 or less.

[0068] In this exemplary embodiment, the circularity of the toner particle is the (circumference length of a circle having area the same as the particle projected image) / (circumference length of the particle projected image), and the average circularity of the toner particle is a circularity that becomes 50% of the accumulation from the smaller side in the circularity distribution. The average circularity of the toner particle is obtained by analyzing at least 3,000 toner particles by a flow-type particle image analyzer. Specific measuring methods are described in the [Examples] described below.

[0069] In a case where the toner particles are manufactured, for example, by the coagulation coalescence method, the average circularity of the toner particles may be by adjusting the stirring speed of the dispersion, the temperature of the dispersion, or retention time in the coagulation coalescence process.

Silica Particle

[0070] In this exemplary embodiment, the silica particles as the external additives of the toner may be monodispersed or polydispersed, and may be polydispersed silica particles obtained by mixing monodispersed silica particles.

[0071] In view of improving transferability of the toner, the silica particles may include silica particles having a primary particle diameter of 70 nm or more and 200 nm or less (hereinafter, referred to as large diameter silica particles). The silica particle having a primary particle diameter of 70 nm or more improves transferability, the silica particle a primary particle diameter of 200 nm or less are not easily separated from the toner particles, and thus expected effects are easily obtained.

[0072] In view of the above, a large diameter silica particle preferably has a primary particle diameter of 80 nm or more and 180 nm or less and more preferably has a primary particle diameter of 90 nm or more and 160 nm or less.

[0073] In view of improving transferability of the toner, in a case where the silica particle is monodispersed, the average primary particle diameter of the silica particle may have 70 nm or more and 200 nm or less, preferably 80 nm or more and 180 nm or less, and more preferably 90 nm or more and 160 nm or less.

[0074] In view of improving the fluidity of the toner and maintaining the transferability, in a case where the silica particle is monodispersed, the difference between the average primary particle diameter of the silica particle and the average primary particle diameter of the specific strontium titanate particle may be 20 nm or more and 180 nm or less. In a case where the difference between the average primary particle diameters is 20 nm or more, the electrostatic repulsion between the silica particle and the specific strontium titanate particle is suppressed, and the uneven distribution of the silica particle is suppressed. Meanwhile, the difference between the average primary particle diameters is too great, a smaller particle is attached to a larger particle, it is difficult to obtain effects expected by the respective particles, and thus the difference between the average primary particle diameters may be 180 nm or less.

[0075] In view of the above, in a case where the silica particle is monodispersed, the difference between the average

primary particle diameter of the silica particle and the average primary particle diameter of the specific strontium titanate particle is preferably 30 nm or more and 150 nm or less and more preferably 40 nm or more and 100 nm or less.

[0076] In view of improving the transferability of the toner, in a case where the silica particle is polydispersed, the particle size distribution may have at least one peak in the particle diameter range of 40 nm or more and 200 nm or less.

In view of improving the transferability of the toner, in a case where the silica particle is polydispersed, the particle size distribution may have at least one peak in the particle diameter range greater than the average primary particle diameter of the specific strontium titanate particle.

[0077] In a case where the silica particle is polydispersed, the average primary particle diameter of the silica particle is, for example, 50 nm or more and 180 nm or less and preferably 60 nm or more and 160 nm or less.

[0078] The primary particle diameter of the silica particle according to this exemplary embodiment is a diameter of a circle having the same area as the primary particle image (so-called equivalent circle diameter), and the average primary particle diameter of the silica particle is a particle diameter which becomes 50% of the accumulation is obtained from the small diameter side in the number-based distribution of the primary particle diameter. The primary particle diameter of the silica particles is obtained by imaging a scanning electron microscope (SEM) image of the toner to which silica particles are externally added and performing image analysis on at least 300 silica particles on the toner particles in the SEM image. Specific measuring methods are described in the [Examples] described below.

[0079] The primary particle diameter of the silica particles may be controlled by, for example, the stirring speed in preparing the silica sol suspension in a case where the silica particles are manufactured by the sol-gel method. The faster the stirring speed in preparing the silica sol suspension, the smaller the primary particle diameter of the silica particles.

[0080] The average primary particle circularity of the large diameter silica particles (silica particles having a primary particle diameter of 70 nm or more and 200 nm or less) is preferably 0.90 or more and 1.00 or less, more preferably 0.92 or more and 0.98 or less, and even more preferably 0.93 or more and 0.96 or less.

[0081] In this exemplary embodiment, the primary particle circularity of the silica particle is $4\pi \times (\text{area of primary particle image}) / (\text{circumference length of primary particle image})^2$, and the average primary particle circularity is circularity that becomes 50% of the accumulation from the smaller side in the circularity distribution. The primary particle circularity of the silica particle is obtained by imaging an SEM image of a toner to which the silica particle is externally added and by performing image analysis on at least 300 points of the silica particle on the toner particle in an SEM image. Specific measuring methods are described in the [Examples] described below.

[0082] The primary particle circularity of the large diameter silica particle is obtained by performing image analysis on at least 300 particles having a particle diameter of 70 nm or more and 200 nm or less among silica particles on the toner particle in the SEM image.

[0083] In view of maintaining the transferability of the toner, the difference of the average primary particle circularity of the silica particle and the average primary particle circularity of the specific strontium titanate particle may be 0.15 or less. In a case where the difference of the average circularity is too large, it is considered that large electrostatic repulsive force acts locally between the specific strontium titanate particles and the silica particles, and uneven distribution of the silica particles easily occurs. Therefore, the difference of the average circularity may be 0.15 or less.

[0084] In view of maintaining the transferability of the toner, the difference of the average primary particle circularity of the large diameter silica particle (silica particle having a primary particle diameter of 70 nm or more and 200 nm or less) and the silica particle and the average primary particle circularity of the specific strontium titanate particle may be 0.15 or less. In a case where the difference of the average circularity is too large, it is considered that large electrostatic repulsive force acts locally between the specific strontium titanate particles and the large diameter silica particles, and uneven distribution of the silica particles easily occurs. Therefore, the difference of the average circularity may be 0.15 or less.

[0085] In view of controlling the primary particle diameter and obtaining the silica particle having monodispersed particle size distribution, the silica particle may be the silica particle manufactured by a wet process.

[0086] The wet process of the silica particle may be a sol gel method using tetraalkoxysilane as a material. The sol gel method for manufacturing the silica particle is well-known. Examples of the sol gel method include preparing a silica sol suspension by dropwise adding ammonia water into a mixed solution of obtained by mixing tetraalkoxysilane, water, and alcohol, centrifuging the wet silica gel from the silica sol suspension, and drying wet silica gel so as to obtain silica particles. Examples of the tetraalkoxysilane include tetramethoxysilane, tetraethoxysilane, tetrapropoxysilane, and tetrabutoxysilane.

[0087] The surface of the silica particles may be subjected to a hydrophobic treatment. For example, the hydrophobic treatment is performed by immersing a silica particle to the hydrophobic treatment agent, or the like. The hydrophobic treatment agent is not particularly limited, but examples thereof include a silane coupling agent, a silicone oil, a titanate coupling agent, and an aluminum coupling agent. These may be used singly or two or more kinds thereof may be used in combination. The amount of the hydrophobic treatment agent is, for example, 1 part by mass or more and 10 parts by mass or less with respect to 100 parts by mass of the silica particle.

[0088] The external addition amount of the silica particle may be 0.1 parts by mass or more and 10 parts by mass or less, preferably 0.5 parts by mass or more and 7.0 parts by mass or less, and more preferably 1.0 part by mass or more and 5.0 parts by mass or less with respect to 100 parts by mass of the toner particle.

5 Specific Strontium Titanate Particle

[0089] In the specific strontium titanate particle, the average primary particle diameter is 10 nm or more and 100 nm or less, the average primary particle circularity is 0.82 or more and 0.94 or less, and the circularity that becomes 84% of the accumulation of the primary particle is more than 0.92.

10 **[0090]** In view of improving the fluidity of the toner, the specific strontium titanate particle has the average primary particle diameter of 10 nm or more and 100 nm or less. In a case where the average primary particle diameter of the strontium titanate particle is less than 10 nm, the strontium titanate particle is easily buried in the toner particle, and it is difficult to obtain an effect of improving the fluidity of the toner. In a case where the average primary particle diameter of the strontium titanate particle is more than 100 nm, the strontium titanate particle easily rolls on the surface of the
15 toner particles and is unevenly distributed in the recessed part of the toner particle having an irregular shape, and thus it is difficult to obtain an effect of improving the fluidity of the toner.

[0091] In view of the above, the average primary particle diameter of the specific strontium titanate particle is 10 nm or more and 100 nm or less, more preferably 20 nm or more and 80 nm or less, even more preferably 20 nm or more and 60 nm or less, and even more preferably 30 nm or more and 60 nm or less.

20 **[0092]** The primary particle diameter of specific strontium titanate particle in this exemplary embodiment is the diameter (so-called circle equivalent diameter) of a circle having an area the same as the primary particle image, and the average primary particle diameter of specific strontium titanate particles is a particle diameter which becomes 50% of accumulation from the small diameter side in the distribution of primary particle diameters based on the number. The primary particle diameter of the specific strontium titanate particle is obtained by imaging an electron microscope image of a toner to
25 which the strontium titanate particle is externally added and by performing image analysis on at least 300 points of the strontium titanate particle on the toner particle. Specific measuring methods are described in the [Examples] described below.

[0093] The average primary particle diameter of the specific strontium titanate particle may be controlled, for example, by various conditions in a case where the strontium titanate particle is manufactured by a wet process.

30 **[0094]** In view of excellent transfer maintainability, the shape of the specific strontium titanate particles is a rounded shape rather than a cube or a rectangle.

[0095] The crystal structure of the strontium titanate particle is a perovskite structure, and generally the particle shape is a cube or a rectangle. With respect to the cubic or rectangular strontium titanate particle, that is, a strontium titanate particle that has angles, charges are concentrated at the angles, it is considered that large electrostatic repulsive force
35 acts locally between the angles and the silica particles, and uneven distribution of the silica particles easily occurs. In order to maintain the transfer efficiency in a low temperature and low humidity environment for a longer period of time, the shape of the strontium titanate particles is a shape with fewer corners, that is, a shape with a rounded shape.

[0096] In the specific strontium titanate particle, the average primary particle circularity is 0.82 or more and 0.94 or less, and the primary particle circularity that becomes 84% of the accumulation is more than 0.92.

40 **[0097]** In this exemplary embodiment, the primary particle circularity of the strontium titanate particle is $4\pi \times (\text{area of primary particle image}) / (\text{circumference length of primary particle image})^2$, the average primary particle circularity is circularity that becomes 50% of the accumulation from the smaller side in the circularity distribution, and the primary particle circularity that becomes 84% of accumulation is circularity that becomes 84% of the accumulation from the smaller side in the circularity distribution. The circularity of the specific strontium titanate particle is obtained by imaging
45 an electron microscope image of a toner to which the strontium titanate particle is externally added and by performing image analysis on at least 300 points of the strontium titanate particle on the toner particle. Specific measuring methods are described in the [Examples] described below.

[0098] With respect to the specific strontium titanate particle, the circularity that becomes 84% of the accumulation of the primary particle is one of the indexes of a rounded shape. The circularity (hereinafter, also referred to as cumulative
50 84% circularity) which becomes 84% of the accumulation of the primary particle is described.

[0099] Fig. 1A is an SEM image of a toner obtained by externally adding SW-360 manufactured by Titan Kogyo, Ltd. which is an example of a strontium titanate particle and a graph of circularity distribution of strontium titanate particle obtained by analyzing the SEM image. As illustrated in the SEM image, in SW-360, a major particle shape is a cube, and rectangle particles and spherical particles having a relatively small particle diameter are mixed. The circularity
55 distribution of SW-360 of this example is concentrated between 0.84 and 0.92, the average circularity is 0.888, and the cumulative 84% circularity is 0.916. It is considered that this is a reflection that the major particle shape of SW-360 is a cube, a projected image of the cube is a regular hexagon (circularity of about 0.907), a flat hexagon, a square (circularity of about 0.785), and a rectangle, a cubic strontium titanate particle adheres to the toner particles with a corner, and the

projected image mostly becomes hexagonal.

[0100] According to the fact that the actual circularity distribution of SW-360 is as described above, from the theoretical circularity of the projected image of the solid, with respect to the cubic or rectangular strontium titanate particle, it is assumed that the cumulative 84% circularity of the primary particle is less than 0.92.

[0101] Fig. 1B is an SEM image of a toner obtained by externally adding another strontium titanate particle and a graph of circularity distribution of strontium titanate particle obtained by analyzing the SEM image. As illustrated in the SEM image, the strontium titanate particle of this example has a rounded shape. In the strontium titanate particle of this example, the average circularity is 0.883, and the cumulative 84% circularity is 0.935.

[0102] From the above, the cumulative 84% circularity of the primary particle in the specific strontium titanate particle is one of the indexes of a rounded shape, and in a case where the cumulative 84% circularity is more than 0.92, the shape may be rounded.

[0103] In view of maintaining transferability of the toner, the average primary particle circularity of the specific strontium titanate particle is 0.82 or more and 0.94 or less, preferably 0.84 or more and 0.94 or less, and more preferably 0.86 or more and 0.92 or less.

[0104] For the specific strontium titanate particles, the half-width of the peak of the (110) plane obtained by the X-ray diffraction method may be 0.2° or more and 2.0° or less and preferably 0.2° or more and 1.0° or less.

[0105] The peak of the (110) plane obtained by the X-ray diffraction method of the strontium titanate particle is a peak that appears near the diffraction angle $2\theta = 32^\circ$. This peak corresponds to a peak of the (110) plane of a perovskite crystal.

[0106] The strontium titanate particle having the particle shape of a cube or a rectangle has high crystallinity of the perovskite crystal, and the half value of the peak of the (110) plane is generally less than 0.2°. For example, when SW-350 manufactured by Titan Kogyo, Ltd. (strontium titanate particle of which the major particle shape is a cube) is analyzed, the half value of the peak of the (110) plane is 0.15°.

[0107] Meanwhile, with respect to the strontium titanate particle in the rounded shape, the crystallinity of the perovskite crystal is relatively low, and the half value of the peak of the (110) plane expands.

[0108] The specific strontium titanate particle has a rounded shape. As one of the indexes of the rounded shape, the half value of the peak of the (110) plane may be 0.2° or more and 2.0° or less, preferably 0.2° or more and 1.0° or less, and more preferably 0.2° or more and 0.5° or less.

[0109] The X-ray diffraction of the strontium titanate particles is measured by using an X-ray diffractometer (for example, trade name: RINT Ultima-III, manufactured by Rigaku Corporation). The settings of the measurement are Line source $\text{CuK}\alpha$, voltage 40 kV, current 40 mA, sample rotation speed: no rotation, divergence slit: 1.00 mm, divergence vertical limit slit: 10 mm, scattering slit: open, receiving slit: open, scanning mode: FT, counting time: 2.0 seconds, step width: 0.0050°, and operation axis: 10.0000° to 70.0000°. The half value of the peak in the X-ray diffraction pattern in this disclosure is full width at half maximum.

[0110] The specific strontium titanate particle is doped with a metal element (hereinafter, also referred to as a dopant) other than titanium and strontium. In a case where the specific strontium titanate particle includes a dopant, the crystallinity of the perovskite structure is decreased, and the shape becomes rounded.

[0111] The dopant of the specific strontium titanate particle is not particularly limited, as long as the dopant is a metal element other than titanium and strontium. A metal element having an ionic radius that may enter the crystal structure forming the strontium titanate particles when being ionized may be used. In this point of view, the dopant of the specific strontium titanate particle is a metal element having an ionic radius when being ionized is 40 pm or more and 200 pm or less and more preferably a metal element having an ionic radius of 60 pm or more and 150 pm or less.

[0112] Examples of the dopant of the specific strontium titanate particles include lanthanoid, silica, aluminum, magnesium, calcium, barium, phosphorus, sulfur, vanadium, chromium, manganese, iron, cobalt, nickel, copper, gallium, yttrium, zinc, niobium, molybdenum, ruthenium, rhodium, palladium, silver, indium, tin, antimony, tantalum, tungsten, rhenium, osmium, iridium, platinum, and bismuth. As the lanthanoid, lanthanum and cerium are preferable. Among these, from the viewpoint that the doping is easily performed, and the shape of the strontium titanate particle is easily controlled, lanthanum is preferable.

[0113] As the dopant of the specific strontium titanate particles, in view of not excessively negatively charging the specific strontium titanate particle, a metal element having an electronegativity of 2.0 or less may be used, and a metal element having an electronegativity of 1.3 or less is preferable. The electronegativity in this exemplary embodiment is Allred-Rochow electronegativity. Examples of the metal element having an electronegativity of 2.0 or less include lanthanum (electronegativity 1.08), magnesium (1.23), aluminum (1.47), silica (1.74), calcium (1.04), vanadium (1.45), chromium (1.56), manganese (1.60), iron (1.64), cobalt (1.70), nickel (1.75), copper (1.75), zinc (1.66), gallium (1.82), yttrium (1.11), zirconium (1.22), niobium (1.23), silver (1.42), indium (1.49), tin (1.72), barium (0.97), tantalum (1.33), rhenium (1.46), and cerium (1.06).

[0114] With respect to the amount of the dopant in the specific strontium titanate particles, in view of obtaining a rounded shape while having a perovskite type crystal structure, the dopant relative to strontium may be in the range of 0.1 mol% or more and 20 mol% or less, preferably in the range of 0.1 mol% or more and 15 mol% or less, and more

preferably in the range of 0.1 mol% or more and 10 mol% or less.

[0115] With respect to the specific strontium titanate particle, the moisture content may be 1.5 mass% or more and 10 mass% or less. In a case where the moisture content is 1.5 mass% or more and 10 mass% or less (preferably 2 mass% or more and 5 mass% or less), the resistance of the specific strontium titanate particles is controlled to an appropriate range, and the suppression of the uneven distribution due to the electrostatic repulsion between the strontium titanate particles is excellent. The moisture content of the specific strontium titanate particle may be controlled, for example, by manufacturing the strontium titanate particle by a wet process and adjusting the temperature and the time of the dry treatment. In the case of performing the hydrophobizing treatment on the strontium titanate particles, the moisture content of the specific strontium titanate particle may be controlled by adjusting the temperature and the time of the drying treatment after the hydrophobic treatment.

[0116] The moisture content of the specific strontium titanate particle is measured as follows.

[0117] After 20 mg of the measurement sample is left for 17 hours in a chamber having a temperature of 22°C and a relative humidity of 55% so as to be humidified, the measurement sample is heated from 30°C to 250°C at a temperature rise rate of 30°C/min in a nitrogen gas atmosphere by a thermobalance (TGA-50 type manufactured by Shimadzu Corporation) in a room at a temperature of 22°C/relative humidity of 55%, and a heating loss (mass lost by heating) is measured.

[0118] The moisture content is calculated by the following formula based on the measured heating loss.

$$\text{Moisture content (mass\%)} = (\text{Heating loss from 30°C to 250°C}) / (\text{mass after humidification before heating}) \times 100$$

[0119] In view of improving the action of the specific strontium titanate particle, the specific strontium titanate particle may be a strontium titanate particle having a hydrophobized surface and preferably a strontium titanate particle having a hydrophobized surface by a silicon-containing organic compound.

Method of Manufacturing Specific Strontium Titanate Particle

[0120] The specific strontium titanate particle may be the strontium titanate particle itself and may be a particle obtained by hydrophobic treatment on the surface of the strontium titanate particle. The method of manufacturing the strontium titanate particle is not particularly limited, but a wet process in view of controlling a particle diameter and a shape may be used.

Manufacturing Strontium Titanate Particle

[0121] The wet process of the strontium titanate particle is a manufacturing method of performing reaction while an alkaline aqueous solution is added to a mixed solution of a titanium oxide source and a strontium source and then performing an acid treatment. In this manufacturing method, the particle diameter of the strontium titanate particles is controlled by a mixing ratio of the titanium oxide source and the strontium source, a concentration of the titanium oxide source at the initial stage of the reaction, the temperature and the addition rate at the time of adding the alkaline aqueous solution, and the like.

[0122] As a titanium oxide source, a mineral acid peptized product of a hydrolyzate of a titanium compound may be used. Examples of the strontium source include strontium nitrate and strontium chloride.

[0123] The mixing ratio of the titanium oxide source and the strontium source may be 0.9 or more and 1.4 or less and preferably 1.05 or more and 1.20 or less in a molar ratio of SrO/TiO₂. The concentration of the titanium oxide source in the initial stage of the reaction may be 0.05 mol/L or more and 1.3 mol/L or less and preferably 0.5 mol/L or more and 1.0 mol/L or less as TiO₂.

[0124] In view of causing the shape of the strontium titanate particle to be not a cube or a rectangle but a rounded shape, a dopant source to a mixed solution of the titanium oxide source and the strontium source may be added. Examples of the dopant source include an oxide of metal other than titanium and strontium. The metal oxide as the dopant source is added as a solution dissolved in, for example, nitric acid, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, or the like. The addition amount of the dopant source may be an amount in which metal which is included in the dopant source is 0.1 moles or more and 20 moles or less and preferably an amount in which metal is 0.5 moles or more and 10 moles or less with respect to 100 moles of strontium to be included in the strontium source.

[0125] As the alkaline aqueous solution, a sodium hydroxide aqueous solution may be used. As the temperature of the reaction solution at the time of adding the alkaline aqueous solution becomes higher, a strontium titanate particle having more satisfactory crystallinity may be obtained. The temperature of the reaction solution when an alkali aqueous

solution is added may be in the range of 60°C to 100°C in view of obtaining a rounded shape while having a perovskite type crystal structure. With respect to the addition rate of the alkaline aqueous solution, as the addition rate is lower, the strontium titanate particle having a larger particle diameter may be obtained, and as the addition rate is higher, the strontium titanate particle having a smaller particle diameter may be obtained. The addition rate of the alkaline aqueous solution, for example, is 0.001 equivalent/h or more and 1.2 equivalent/h or less and appropriately 0.002 equivalent/h or more and 1.1 equivalent/h or less with respect to the introduced raw material.

[0126] After the alkaline aqueous solution is added, an acid treatment is performed for the purpose of removing the unreacted strontium source. The acid treatment, for example, is performed by using hydrochloric acid, and pH of the reaction solution is adjusted from 2.5 to 7.0 and preferably from 4.5 to 6.0. After the acid treatment, the reaction solution is subjected to solid-liquid separation, and the solid content is subjected to a dry treatment, so as to obtain a strontium titanate particle.

Surface Treatment

[0127] The hydrophobic treatment on the surface of the strontium titanate particle is performed, for example, by preparing a treatment liquid obtained by mixing a solvent and a silicon-containing organic compound that is a hydrophobic treatment agent, mixing the strontium titanate particle and the treatment liquid under stirring, and further performing stirring continuously. After the surface treatment, the drying treatment is performed for the purpose of removing the solvent of the treatment liquid.

[0128] Examples of the silicon-containing organic compound used in the surface treatment of the strontium titanate particle include an alkoxysilane compound, a silazane compound, and silicone oil.

[0129] Examples of the alkoxysilane compound used in the surface treatment of the strontium titanate particle include tetramethoxysilane and tetraethoxysilane; methyltrimethoxysilane, ethyl trimethoxysilane, propyl trimethoxysilane, butyl trimethoxysilane, hexyltrimethoxysilane, n-octyltrimethoxysilane, decyltrimethoxysilane, dodecyltrimethoxysilane, vinyl triethoxysilane, methyltriethoxysilane, ethyltriethoxysilane, butyl triethoxysilane, hexyltriethoxysilane, decyltriethoxysilane, dodecyltriethoxysilane, phenyltrimethoxysilane, o-methylphenyltrimethoxysilane, p-methylphenyltrimethoxysilane, phenyltriethoxysilane, and benzyltriethoxysilane; dimethyl dimethoxysilane, dimethyl diethoxysilane, methyl vinyl dimethoxysilane, methyl vinyl diethoxysilane, diphenyldimethoxysilane, and diphenyldiethoxysilane; trimethylmethoxysilane, and trimethylethoxysilane.

[0130] Examples of silazane compounds used for surface treatment of strontium titanate particles include dimethyldisilazane, trimethyldisilazane, tetramethyldisilazane, pentamethyldisilazane, and hexamethyldisilazane.

[0131] Examples of the silicone oil used for the surface treatment of the strontium titanate particles include silicone oil such as dimethyl polysiloxane, diphenyl polysiloxane, and phenylmethyl polysiloxane; and reactive silicone oil such as amino-modified polysiloxane, epoxy-modified polysiloxane, carboxyl-modified polysiloxane, carbinol-modified polysiloxane, fluorine-modified polysiloxane, methacryl-modified polysiloxane, mercapto-modified polysiloxane, and phenol-modified polysiloxane.

[0132] As the solvent used for preparing the treatment liquid, an alcohol (for example, methanol, ethanol, propanol, and butanol) may be used in a case where the silicon-containing organic compound is an alkoxysilane compound or a silazane compound, and hydrocarbons (for example, benzene, toluene, normal hexane, and normal heptane) may be used in a case where the silicon-containing organic compound is silicone oil.

[0133] In the treatment liquid, the concentration of the silicon-containing organic compound may be 1 mass% or more and 50 mass% or less, preferably 5 mass% or more and 40 mass% or less, and more preferably 10 mass% or more and 30 mass% or less.

[0134] The amount of the silicon-containing organic compound used for the surface treatment may be 1 part by mass or more and 50 parts by mass or less, preferably 5 parts by mass or more and 40 parts by mass or less, and more preferably 5 parts by mass or more and 30 parts by mass or less with respect to 100 parts by mass of the strontium titanate particle.

[0135] The external addition amount of the specific strontium titanate particle may be 0.2 parts by mass or more and 4 parts by mass or less, preferably 0.4 parts by mass or more and 3 parts by mass or less, and more preferably 0.6 parts by mass or more and 2 parts by mass or less with respect to 100 parts by mass of the toner particle.

[0136] The external addition amount of the specific strontium titanate particle may be 10 parts by mass or more and 100 parts by mass or less, preferably 20 parts by mass or more and 90 parts by mass or less, and more preferably 30 parts by mass or more and 80 parts by mass or less with respect to 100 parts by mass of the silica particle.

Other External Additives

[0137] In the range of obtaining the effect of this exemplary embodiment, the toner according to this exemplary embodiment may include other external additives other than the silica particle and the strontium titanate particle. Examples

of the other external additives include the following inorganic particle and the resin particle.

[0138] Examples of the other external additive include an inorganic particle. Examples of the other inorganic particle include TiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , CuO , ZnO , SnO_2 , CeO_2 , Fe_2O_3 , MgO , BaO , CaO , K_2O , Na_2O , ZrO_2 , $\text{CaO}\cdot\text{SiO}_2$, $\text{K}_2\text{O}\cdot(\text{TiO}_2)_n$, $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\cdot 2\text{SiO}_2$, CaCO_3 , MgCO_3 , BaSO_4 , and MgSO_4 .

[0139] The surface of the inorganic particle as the external additive may be subjected to the hydrophobic treatment. For example, the hydrophobic treatment is performed by immersing an inorganic particle to the hydrophobic treatment agent, or the like. The hydrophobic treatment agent is not particularly limited, but examples thereof include a silane coupling agent, a silicone oil, a titanate coupling agent, and an aluminum coupling agent. These may be used singly or two or more kinds thereof may be used in combination.

[0140] The amount of the hydrophobic treatment agent is generally 1 part by mass or more and 10 parts by mass or less with respect to 100 parts by mass of the inorganic particle.

[0141] Examples of the other external additive include a resin particle (a resin particle such as polystyrene, polymethyl methacrylate, and melamine resin) and a cleaning activator (for example, a particle of a fluorine-based high molecular weight substance).

[0142] The content of the other external additive may be 0.01 mass% or more and 5 mass% or less and preferably 0.01 mass% or more and 2.0 mass% or less with respect to the toner particle.

Method of Manufacturing Toner

[0143] Subsequently, the method of manufacturing the toner according to this exemplary embodiment is described.

[0144] The toner according to this exemplary embodiment may be obtained by externally adding an external additive to the toner particle after the toner particle is manufactured.

[0145] The toner particle may be manufactured by any one of a dry process (for example, a kneading pulverization method) and a wet process (for example, a coagulation coalescence method, a suspension polymerization method, and a dissolution suspension method). These processes are not particularly limited, and well-known processes are employed. Among these, toner particles may be obtained by a coagulation coalescence method.

[0146] Specifically, for example, in a case where toner particles are manufactured by a coagulation coalescence method,

[0147] The toner particles are manufactured through a step of (a resin particle dispersion preparation step) of preparing a resin particle dispersion in which resin particles to be a binder resin are dispersed, a step of aggregating the resin particles (other particles, if necessary) in the resin particle dispersion (in a dispersion after other particles are mixed, if necessary) to form aggregated particles, and a step (coagulation/coalescence step) of heating the aggregated particle dispersion in which the aggregated particles are dispersed, and coagulating and coalescing the aggregated particles to form toner particles.

[0148] Hereinafter, respective steps are described.

[0149] In the following description, a method for obtaining toner particles including a colorant and a releasing agent is described, but a colorant and a releasing agent are used, if necessary. It is obvious that, other additives other than the colorant and the releasing agent may be used.

Resin Particle Dispersion Preparation Step

[0150] Together with the resin particle dispersion in which resin particles to be a binder resin are dispersed, for example, a colorant particle dispersion in which colorant particles are dispersed and a releasing agent particle dispersion in which releasing agent particles are dispersed are prepared.

[0151] The resin particle dispersion is prepared, for example, by dispersing resin particles in a dispersion medium by a surfactant.

[0152] Examples of the dispersion medium used for the resin particle dispersion include an aqueous medium.

[0153] Examples of the aqueous medium include water such as distilled water and ion exchanged water and alcohols. These may be used singly or two or more kinds thereof may be used in combination.

[0154] Examples of the surfactant include an anionic surfactant such as sulfate ester salt-based, sulfonate-based, phosphate ester-based, and soap-based surfactants; a cationic surfactant such as amine salt-based and quaternary ammonium salt-based surfactants; and a nonionic surfactant such as polyethylene glycol-based, alkylphenol ethylene oxide adduct-based, and polyhydric alcohol-based surfactants. Among these, particularly, an anionic surfactant and a cationic surfactant are exemplified. The nonionic surfactant may be used together with an anionic surfactant and a cationic surfactant.

[0155] The surfactant may be used singly or two or more kinds thereof may be used in combination.

[0156] With respect to the resin particle dispersion, examples of the method of dispersing the resin particles in a dispersion medium, for example, include a general dispersing method such as a rotary shearing type homogenizer, a

ball mill, a sand mill, and a dyno mill having a medium. According to the types of the resin particle, the resin particles may be dispersed in the dispersion medium by a phase-transfer emulsification method. The phase-transfer emulsification method is a method of dissolving the resin to be dispersed in a hydrophobic organic solvent in which the resin is soluble and performing phase inversion from W/O to O/W by performing neutralization by adding a base to an organic continuous phase (O phase) and introducing the aqueous medium (W phase), so as to disperse the resin in a particle form in an aqueous medium.

[0157] The volume average particle diameter of the resin particles dispersed in the resin particle dispersion, for example, may be 0.01 μm or more and 1 μm or less, preferably 0.08 μm or more and 0.8 μm or less, and more preferably 0.1 μm or more and 0.6 μm or less.

[0158] With respect to the volume average particle diameter of the resin particles, the particle diameter which becomes 50% of the accumulation with respect to all the particles is defined as the volume average particle diameter D50v, is measured as the volume average particle diameter D50v, by subtracting the cumulative distribution from the small particle diameter side to the volume with respect to the particle size (channel) partitioned by using the particle size distribution obtained by measurement with a laser diffraction type particle size distribution determination device (for example, LA-700, manufactured by Horiba, Ltd.). The volume average particle diameter of the particles in other dispersions is measured in the same manner.

[0159] The content of the resin particle of the resin particle dispersion may be 5 mass% or more and 50 mass% or less and preferably 10 mass% or more and 40 mass% or less.

[0160] In the same manner as the resin particle dispersion, for example, a colorant particle dispersion and a releasing agent particle dispersion are also prepared. That is, with regard to the volume average particle diameter of the particles in the resin particle dispersion, the dispersion medium, the dispersion method, and the content of the particles, the same is applied to the release agent particles dispersed in the colorant particles dispersed in the colorant particle dispersion and the releasing agent particle dispersion.

Aggregated Particle Forming Step

[0161] Subsequently, the resin particle dispersion, the colorant particle dispersion, and the release agent particle dispersion are mixed. In the mixed dispersion, the resin particles, the colorant particles, and the releasing agent particles are heteroaggregated and aggregated particles including the resin particles, the colorant particles, and the releasing agent particles which has a diameter close to the diameter of the usable toner particle are formed.

[0162] Specifically, for example, an aggregating agent is added to the mixed dispersion, pH of the mixed dispersion is adjusted to acidity (for example, pH 2 or more and 5 or less), a dispersion stabilizer is added, if necessary, heating is performed to a temperature (specifically, for example, glass transition temperature of resin particles of -30°C or more and glass transition temperature of -10°C or less) close to the glass transition temperature of the resin particles, and the particles dispersed in the mixed dispersion are aggregated, so as to form aggregated particles.

[0163] In the aggregated particle forming step, for example, heating may be performed after adding an aggregating agent at room temperature (for example, 25°C) under stirring stirred with a rotary shearing type homogenizer with a rotary shearing type homogenizer, adjusting pH of the mixed dispersion to acidity (for example, pH 2 or more and 5 or less), and adding the dispersion stabilizer, if necessary.

[0164] Examples of the aggregating agent include a surfactant having a polarity opposite to that of the surfactant included in the mixed dispersion, inorganic metal salt, and a divalent or higher valent metal complex. In a case where a metal complex is used as the aggregating agent, the amount of the surfactant used is reduced and the charging properties are improved.

[0165] Together with the aggregating agent, an additive that forms a complex or a similar bond with a metal ion of the aggregating agent may be used, if necessary. As the additive, a chelating agent is preferably used.

[0166] Examples of the inorganic metal salt include metal salt such as calcium chloride, calcium nitrate, barium chloride, magnesium chloride, zinc chloride, aluminum chloride, and aluminum sulfate; and an inorganic metal salt polymer such as polyaluminum chloride, poly aluminum hydroxide, and calcium polysulfide polymer.

[0167] As the chelating agent, a water soluble chelating agent may be used. Examples of the chelating agent include oxycarboxylic acid such as tartaric acid, citric acid, and gluconic acid; and aminocarboxylic acid such as iminodiacetic acid (IDA), nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), and ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA).

[0168] The addition amount of the chelating agent may be 0.01 parts by mass or more and 5.0 parts by mass or less and preferably 0.1 parts by mass or more and less than 3.0 parts by mass with respect to 100 parts by mass of the resin particle.

Coagulation Coalescence Step

[0169] Next, the aggregated particle dispersion in which the aggregated particles are dispersed is heated, for example,

to be equal to or higher than the glass transition temperature of the resin particles (for example, higher than the temperature higher than the glass transition temperature of the resin particles by 10°C to 30°C), and the aggregated particles are coagulated and coalesced, so as to form the toner particles.

[0170] The toner particles may be obtained through the above steps.

[0171] The toner particles may be manufactured through a step of obtaining an aggregated particle dispersion in which the aggregated particles are dispersed, further mixing the aggregated particle dispersion and the resin particle dispersion in which the resin particles are dispersed, and aggregating such that the resin particles are further adhered to the surface of the aggregated particles, to form the second aggregated particles and a step of heating the second aggregated particle dispersion in which the second aggregated particles are dispersed, and coagulating and coalescing of the second aggregated particles, to form toner particles having a core-shell structure.

[0172] After completion of the coagulation coalescence step, a well-known washing step, a well-known solid-liquid separation step, and a well-known drying step are performed on to the toner particles formed in the solution, so as to obtain toner particles in a dry state. With respect to the washing step, in view of charging performances, displacement washing with ion exchanged water may be sufficiently performed. With respect to the solid-liquid separation step, in view of productivity, suction filtration, pressure filtration, and the like may be performed. With respect to the drying step, in view of productivity, freeze-drying, air stream drying, viscous flow drying, vibrating viscous drying, and the like may be performed.

[0173] Then, the toner according to this embodiment is manufactured, for example, by adding an external additive to the obtained toner particles in a dry state and performing mixing. The mixing may be performed, for example, a V blender, a HENSCHER MIXER, or a LOEDIGE MIXER. If necessary, coarse particles of the toner may be removed by using a vibration sieving machine, an air sieve separator, or the like.

Electrostatic Charge Image Developer

[0174] The electrostatic charge image developer according to this exemplary embodiment at least includes the toner according to this exemplary embodiment. The electrostatic charge image developer according to this exemplary embodiment may be a single component developer including only the toner according to this exemplary embodiment and may be a double component developer obtained by mixing the toner and a carrier.

[0175] The carrier is not particularly limited, and examples thereof include well-known carriers. Examples of the carrier include a coated carrier in which the surface of a core formed of magnetic powder is coated with a resin; a magnetic powder dispersed carrier formulated by dispersing in which magnetic powder in a matrix resin; and a resin impregnated carrier in which porous magnetic powder is impregnated with a resin. The magnetic powder dispersion type carrier and the resin impregnated carrier may be a carrier in which constituent particles of the carrier are used as a core, and the surface is coated with a resin.

[0176] Examples of the magnetic powder include magnetic metal such as iron, nickel, and cobalt; and magnetic oxides such as ferrite and magnetite.

[0177] Examples of the resin for coating and the matrix resin include polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl butyral, PVC, polyvinyl ether, polyvinyl ketone, a vinyl chloride-vinyl acetate copolymer, a styrene-acrylic acid ester copolymer, a straight silicone resin including an organosiloxane bond, or modified products thereof, a fluorine resin, polyester, polycarbonate, a phenol resin, and an epoxy resin. Additives such as conductive particles may be included in the coating resin and the matrix resin. Examples of the conductive particles include particles of metal such as gold, silver, and copper, carbon black, titanium oxide, zinc oxide, tin oxide, barium sulfate, aluminum borate, and potassium titanate.

[0178] In order to coat the surface of the core with the resin, a method of applying the coating resin and a coating layer forming solution obtained by dissolving various additives (used, if necessary) in an appropriate solvent, and the like may be exemplified. The solvent is not particularly limited and may be selected considering the kind of resin to be used, coating suitability, and the like. Specific examples of the resin coating method include an immersion method of immersing the core in a coating layer forming solution; a spraying method of spraying a coating layer forming solution to the surface of the core material; a viscous flow bed method of spraying the coating layer forming solution in a state in which the core is suspended by viscous flow air; and a kneader coater method of mixing a core of a carrier and a coating layer forming solution in a kneader coater and then removing the solvent.

[0179] The mixing ratio (mass ratio) of the toner and the carrier in the double-component developer may be from toner : carrier = 1 : 100 to 30 : 100 and preferably from 3 : 100 to 20 : 100.

Image Forming Device and Image Forming Method

[0180] The image forming device and the image forming method according to this exemplary embodiment are described.

[0181] The image forming device according to this exemplary embodiment includes an image holding member, a charging unit that charges a surface of the image holding member, an electrostatic charge image forming unit that forms an electrostatic charge image on the charged surface of the image holding member, an developing unit that accommodates an electrostatic charge image developer and develops an electrostatic charge image formed on the surface of the image holding member by the electrostatic charge image developer as a toner image, a transfer unit that transfers a toner image formed on the surface of the image holding member to a surface of a recording medium, and a fixing unit that fixes the toner image transferred to the surface of the recording medium. As the electrostatic charge image developer, an electrostatic charge image developer according to this exemplary embodiment is applied.

[0182] In the image forming device according to this exemplary embodiment, an image forming method (the image forming according to this exemplary embodiment) including a charging step of charging a surface of the image holding member, an electrostatic charge image forming step of forming an electrostatic charge image on the charged surface of the image holding member, an developing step of developing an electrostatic charge image formed on the surface of the image holding member by an electrostatic charge image developer according to this exemplary embodiment as a toner image, a transfer step of transferring a toner image formed on the surface of the image holding member to a surface of a recording medium, and a fixing step of fixing the toner image transferred to the surface of the recording medium is performed.

[0183] With respect to the image forming device according to this exemplary embodiment, well-known image forming devices such as a device in a direct transfer method of directly transferring a toner image formed on a surface of an image holding member to a recording medium; a device in an intermediate transfer method of firstly transferring a toner image formed on a surface of an image holding member to a surface of an intermediate transfer member and secondarily transferring the toner image transferred to the surface of the intermediate transfer member to the surface of the recording medium; a device of including a cleaning unit that cleans the surface of the image holding member after transferring of the toner image and before charging; and a device of including a discharging unit that performs discharging by irradiating the surface of the image holding member with discharging light after the transferring of the toner image and before charging.

[0184] In a case where the image forming device according to this exemplary embodiment is a device in the intermediate transferring method, a configuration in which the transfer unit, for example, includes an intermediate transfer member in which a toner image is transferred to a surface, a primary transfer unit that firstly transfers the toner image formed on the surface of the image holding member to a surface of the intermediate transfer member, and a secondary transfer unit that secondarily transfers the toner image transferred to the surface of the intermediate transfer member to a surface of a recording medium is applied.

[0185] In the image forming device according to this exemplary embodiment, for example, a portion including a developing unit may be a cartridge structure (process cartridge) that is detachably attached to the image forming device. As the process cartridge, for example, a process cartridge including a developing unit that accommodates the electrostatic charge image developer according to this exemplary embodiment is preferably used.

[0186] Hereinafter, an example of the image forming device according to this exemplary embodiment is described, but the present invention is not limited thereto. In the description below, major portions illustrated in the drawings are described, and explanation of the others is omitted.

[0187] Fig. 2 is a schematic view illustrating an image forming device according to this exemplary embodiment.

[0188] The image forming device illustrated in Fig. 2 includes first to fourth image forming units 10Y, 10M, 10C, and 10K (image forming units) of an electrophotographic method that output images of respective colors of yellow (Y), magenta (M), cyan (C), and black (K) based on color separated image data. These image forming units (hereinafter, simply referred to as "units" in some cases) 10Y, 10M, 10C, and 10K are arranged to be parallel by being spaced in a predetermined distance from each other in a horizontal direction. These units 10Y, 10M, 10C, and 10K may be process cartridges that are detachably attached to the image forming device.

[0189] An intermediate transfer belt (an example of the intermediate transfer member) 20 is elongated on upper sides of the respective units 10Y, 10M, 10C, and 10K through the respective units. The intermediate transfer belt 20 is installed to wind a drive roller 22 and a support roller 24 that are in contact with an inner surface of the intermediate transfer belt 20 and is caused to drive in a direction from the first unit 10Y toward the fourth unit 10K. The force is applied to the support roller 24 in a direction of departing from the drive roller 22 by a spring or the like, such that tension is applied to the intermediate transfer belt 20. An intermediate transfer belt cleaning device 30 is provided on the image holding surface side of the intermediate transfer belt 20 to face the drive roller 22.

[0190] Respective toners of yellow, magenta, cyan, and black that are held in containers included in toner cartridges 8Y, 8M, 8C, and 8K are supplied to respective developing devices (an example of developing units) 4Y, 4M, 4C, and 4K of the respective units 10Y, 10M, 10C, and 10K.

[0191] The first to fourth units 10Y, 10M, 10C, and 10K have identical configuration and movements, and thus the first unit 10Y that is installed on an upper stream side in the intermediate transfer belt driving direction and forms a yellow image is representatively described.

[0192] The first unit 10Y has a photoconductor 1Y that functions as an image holding member. Around the photoconductor 1Y, a charging roller (an example of the charging unit) 2Y that charges a surface of the photoconductor 1Y in a predetermined potential, an exposing device (an example of the electrostatic charge image forming unit) 3 that exposes the charged surface with laser beams 3Y based on a color separated image signal and forms an electrostatic charge image, a developing device (an example of the developing unit) 4Y that supplies a toner charged on an electrostatic charge image and develops an electrostatic charge image, a primary transfer roller (an example of the primary transfer unit) 5Y that transfers the developed toner image on the intermediate transfer belt 20, and a photoconductor cleaning device (an example of the image holding member cleaning unit) 6Y that removes the toner remaining on the surface of the photoconductor 1Y after primary transferring.

[0193] The primary transfer roller 5Y is disposed inside the intermediate transfer belt 20 and is provided at a position facing the photoconductor 1Y. Respective bias power supplies (not illustrated) that apply primary transfer bias are connected to the primary transfer rollers 5Y, 5M, 5C, and 5K of the respective units. The respective bias power supplies change the values of the transfer bias applied to the respective primary transfer rollers according to the control of a controller (not illustrated).

[0194] Hereinafter, movements for forming a yellow image in the first unit 10Y are described.

[0195] First, prior to the movements, the surface of the photoconductor 1Y is charged by the charging roller 2Y to a potential of -600 V to - 800 V.

[0196] The photoconductor 1Y is formed by laminating a photosensitive layer on a substrate having conductivity (for example, volume resistivity at 20°C of $1 \times 10^{-6} \Omega\text{cm}$ or less). This photosensitive layer is generally high resistance (resistance of general resin), but has properties in which the specific resistance of the portion irradiated with the laser beams changes in a case where the photosensitive layer is irradiated with laser beams. Therefore, the charged surface of the photoconductor 1Y according to image data for yellow sent from the controller (not illustrated) is irradiated with the laser beams 3Y from the exposing device 3. Accordingly, an electrostatic charge image of a yellow image pattern is formed on the surface of the photoconductor 1Y.

[0197] The electrostatic charge image is an image formed on the surface of the photoconductor 1Y by charging and is a so-called negative latent image in which the specific resistance of the irradiated portion of the photosensitive layer decreases by the laser beams 3Y such that the charged electric charged on the surface of the photoconductor 1Y flows and charges of the portion not irradiated with the laser beam 3Y are retained.

[0198] The electrostatic charge image formed on the photoconductor 1Y rotates to a predetermined developing position according to the driving of the photoconductor 1Y. In this developing position, an electrostatic charge image on the photoconductor 1Y is developed as a toner image and visualized by a developing device 4Y.

[0199] The electrostatic charge image developer including at least a yellow toner and a carrier is accommodated in the developing device 4Y. The yellow toner is frictionally electrified by being stirred inside the developing device 4Y, and has charges having the polarity the same (negative polarity) as that of the charges charged on the photoconductor 1Y and is held on a roller (an example of developer holding member). As the surface of the photoconductor 1Y passes through the developing device 4Y, the yellow toner electrostatically adheres to the latent image portion discharged on the surface of the photoconductor 1Y, and the latent image is developed with the yellow toner. The photoconductor 1Y on which the yellow toner image is formed is subsequently moved at a predetermined speed, and the toner image developed on the photoconductor 1Y is transported to a predetermined primary transfer position.

[0200] In a case where the yellow toner image on the photoconductor 1Y is transported to the primary transfer position, a primary transfer bias is applied to the primary transfer roller 5Y, the electrostatic force directed from the photoconductor 1Y toward the primary transfer roller 5Y acts on the toner image, and the toner image on the photoconductor 1Y is transferred to the intermediate transfer belt 20. The transfer bias applied at this point has a polarity (+) opposite to the polarity (-) of the toner and is controlled to +10 μA , for example, by the controller (not illustrated) in the first unit 10Y. The toner retained on the photoconductor 1Y is removed by the photoconductor cleaning device 6Y and collected.

[0201] The primary transfer bias applied to the primary transfer rollers 5M, 5C, and 5K after the second unit 10M is also controlled in accordance with the first unit.

[0202] In this manner, the intermediate transfer belt 20 to which the yellow toner image has been transferred in the first unit 10Y is transported sequentially through the second to fourth units 10M, 10C, and 10K, toner images of respective colors are superimposed and transferred in a multiplex manner.

[0203] The intermediate transfer belt 20 on which the four color toner images are transferred in a multiplex manner through the first to fourth units reaches a secondary transfer portion including an intermediate transfer belt 20, the support roller 24 in contact with the inner surface of the intermediate transfer belt, and a secondary transfer roller (an example of the secondary transfer unit) 26 disposed on the image holding surface side of the intermediate transfer belt 20. On the other hand, recording paper (an example of a recording medium) P is fed to the gap between the secondary transfer roller 26 and the intermediate transfer belt 20 via a supply mechanism at a predetermined timing, and the secondary transfer bias is applied to the support roller 24.

[0204] The transfer bias applied at this point has a polarity (-) of polarity the same as the polarity (-) of the toner, and

the electrostatic force directed from the intermediate transfer belt 20 toward the recording paper P acts on the toner image, and the toner image on the intermediate transfer belt 20 is transferred onto the recording paper P. The secondary transfer bias at this point is determined according to the resistance detected by a resistance detection unit (not illustrated) for detecting the resistance of the secondary transfer portion, and the voltage is controlled.

[0205] The recording paper P to which the toner image is transferred is sent to a pressure contact portion (nip portion) of a pair of fixing rollers in a fixing device (an example of the fixing unit) 28, a toner image is fixed on the recording paper P, and a fixed image is formed. The recording paper P on which fixing of the color image is completed is exported toward the discharging section, and the series of color image forming movements is ended.

[0206] Examples of the recording paper P to which the toner image is transferred include plain paper used for a copying machine or a printer in the electrophotographic method. Examples of the recording medium include an OHP sheet in addition to the recording paper P. In order to further improve the smoothness of the image surface after fixing, the surface of the recording paper P may be also smooth. For example, coated paper obtained by coating the surface of plain paper with a resin or the like, art paper for printing, and the like are preferably used.

Process Cartridge and Toner Cartridge

[0207] The process cartridge according to this exemplary embodiment is a process cartridge that includes a developing unit accommodating the electrostatic charge image developer according to this exemplary embodiment, developing an electrostatic charge image formed on the surface of the image holding member by the electrostatic charge image developer as the toner image and that is detachably attached to the image forming device.

[0208] The process cartridge according to this exemplary embodiment may have a configuration of including a developing unit and, for example, at least one selected from other units such as an image holding member, a charging unit, an electrostatic charge image forming unit, and a transfer unit, if necessary.

[0209] Hereinafter, an example of the process cartridge according to this exemplary embodiment is described, but the present invention is not limited thereto. In the description below, major portions illustrated in the drawings are described, and explanation of the others is omitted.

[0210] Fig. 3 is a schematic view illustrating the process cartridge according to this exemplary embodiment.

[0211] A process cartridge 200 illustrated in Fig. 3 became a cartridge combining and holding a photoconductor 107 (an example of the image holding member), a charging roller 108 (an example of the charging unit) around the photoconductor 107, a developing device 111 (an example of the developing unit), and a photoconductor cleaning device 113 (an example of the cleaning unit) in an integrated manner, for example, by a housing 117 including a mounting rail 116 and an opening 118 for exposure.

[0212] In Fig. 3, 109 indicates an exposing device (an example of the electrostatic charge image forming unit), 112 indicates a transfer device (an example of the transfer unit), 115 indicates a fixing device (an example of the fixing unit), and 300 indicates a recording paper (an example of the recording medium).

[0213] Subsequently, the toner cartridge according to this exemplary embodiment is described.

[0214] The toner cartridge according to this exemplary embodiment is a toner cartridge which includes a container that accommodates the toner according to this exemplary embodiment and is detachably attached to the image forming device. The toner cartridge includes the container that accommodates the replenishing toner for being supplied to the developing unit provided in the image forming device.

[0215] The image forming device illustrated in Fig. 2 is an image forming device having a configuration in which the toner cartridges 8Y, 8M, 8C, and 8K are detachably attached, and the developing devices 4Y, 4M, 4C, and 4K are connected to the toner cartridges corresponding to the respective colors by toner supply tubes (not illustrated). In a case where the toner that is accommodated in the container in the toner cartridge becomes less, this toner cartridge is replaced.

Examples

[0216] Hereinafter, the exemplary embodiment of the present invention is specifically described with reference to examples, but the present invention is not limited to these examples. Herein, unless otherwise specified, "part" and "%" are based on mass.

Preparation of Toner Particle

Toner Particle (1)

Preparation of Resin Particle Dispersion (1)

[0217]

- Terephthalic acid: 30 mol parts
- Fumaric acid: 70 parts by mole
- Bisphenol A ethylene oxide adduct: 5 parts by mole
- Bisphenol A propylene oxide adduct: 95 parts by mol

[0218] The above materials are introduced to a flask equipped with a stirrer, a nitrogen introduction pipe, a temperature sensor, and a rectification column, the temperature is raised to 220°C over one hour, and 1 part of titanium tetraethoxide is added to 100 parts of the material. While generated water is distilled off, the temperature is raised to 230°C over 30 minutes, the dehydration condensation reaction is continued for one hour at the temperature, and the reaction product is cooled. In this manner, a polyester resin having a weight-average molecular weight of 18,000 and a glass transition temperature of 60°C is obtained.

[0219] 40 parts of ethyl acetate and 25 parts of 2-butanol are introduced into a container equipped with a temperature regulating unit and a nitrogen replacing unit to obtain a mixed solvent, 100 parts of a polyester resin is gradually added and dissolved, and 10 mass% of an ammonia aqueous solution (equivalent to 3 times by the molar ratio with respect to the acid value of the resin) are put, and stirring is performed over 30 minutes. Subsequently, the inside of the container is replaced with dry nitrogen, the temperature is maintained at 40°C, and 400 parts of ion exchanged water is added dropwise at a rate of 2 parts/min while the mixed solution is stirred. After the dropwise addition is completed, the temperature is returned to room temperature (20°C to 25°C), and bubbling is performed for 48 hours with dry nitrogen while stirring to obtain a resin particle dispersion in which ethyl acetate and 2-butanol are reduced to 1,000 ppm or less. Ion exchanged water is added to the resin particle dispersion, and the solid content is adjusted to 20 mass% so as to obtain a resin particle dispersion (1).

Preparation of Colorant Particle Dispersion (1)

[0220]

- C. I. Pigment Blue 15:3 (manufactured by Dainichiseika Color & Chem Mfg Co., Ltd.): 70 parts
- Anionic surfactant (NEOGEN RK, manufactured by Dai-ichi Kogyo Seiyaku Co., Ltd.): 5 parts
- Ion exchanged water: 200 parts

[0221] The materials are mixed and dispersed for 10 minutes by using a homogenizer (trade name ULTRA-TURRAX T50 manufactured by IKA-Werke GmbH & Co. KG). Ion exchanged water is added such that the solid content in the dispersion became 20 mass% so as to obtain a colorant particle dispersion (1) in which colorant particles having a volume average particle diameter of 170 nm are dispersed.

Preparation of Releasing Agent Particle Dispersion (1)

[0222] Paraffin wax (Nippon Seiro Co., Ltd., HNP-9): 100 parts

- Anionic surfactant (NEOGEN RK, manufactured by Dai-ichi Kogyo Seiyaku Co., Ltd.): 1 part
- Ion exchanged water: 350 parts

[0223] The materials are mixed, heated to 100°C, dispersed using a homogenizer (IKA-Werke GmbH & Co. KG, trade name ULTRA-TURRAX T50), and performing a distribution treatment a MANTON GAULIN high pressure homogenizer (Gaulin Co., Ltd.), to obtain a releasing agent particle dispersion (1) (solid content amount: 20 mass%) having a volume average particle diameter of 200 nm.

Manufacturing of Toner Particle (1)

[0224]

- Resin particle dispersion (1): 403 parts
- Colorant particle dispersion (1): 12 parts
- Releasing agent particle dispersion (1): 50 parts
- Anionic surfactant (TaycaPower): 2 parts

[0225] The materials are introduced in a round stainless steel flask, 0.1 N nitric acid is added such that pH is adjusted to 3.5, and 30 parts of a nitric acid aqueous solution having a polyaluminum chloride concentration of 10 mass% is

added. Subsequently, the mixture is dispersed at a liquid temperature of 30°C using a homogenizer (IKA-Werke GmbH & Co. KG, trade name ULTRA TURRAX T50), heated to 45°C in a heating oil bath, and maintained for 30 minutes. Thereafter, 100 parts of the resin particle dispersion (1) is added and maintained for 1 hour, a 0.1 N sodium hydroxide aqueous solution is added, pH is adjusted to 8.5, and the mixture is heated to 84°C and maintained for 2.5 hours. Subsequently, the mixture was cooled to 20°C at a rate of 20°C/min, filtrated, sufficiently washed with ion exchanged water, and dried, so as to obtain a toner particle (1). The volume average particle diameter of the toner particle (1) is 5.7 μm.

Toner Particle (2)

[0226] A toner particle (2) was prepared in the same manner as the manufacturing of the toner particle (1) except that the temperature and retention time in the coagulation coalescence step are changed to 80°C and 1.5 hours. The volume average particle diameter of the toner particle (2) is 5.7 μm.

Toner Particle (3)

[0227] A toner particle (3) was prepared in the same manner as the manufacturing of the toner particle (1) except that the temperature and retention time in the coagulation coalescence step are changed to 82°C and 2.5 hours. The volume average particle diameter of the toner particle (3) is 5.6 μm.

Toner Particle (4)

[0228] A toner particle (4) was prepared in the same manner as the manufacturing of the toner particle (1) except that the temperature and retention time in the coagulation coalescence step are changed to 88°C and three hours. The volume average particle diameter of the toner particle (4) is 5.8 μm.

Toner Particle (5)

[0229] A toner particle (5) was prepared in the same manner as the manufacturing of the toner particle (1) except that the temperature and retention time in the coagulation coalescence step are changed to 75°C and one hour. The volume average particle diameter of the toner particle (5) is 5.6 μm.

Toner Particle (6)

[0230] A toner particle (6) was prepared in the same manner as the manufacturing of the toner particle (1) except that the temperature and retention time in the coagulation coalescence step are changed to 95°C and five hours. The volume average particle diameter of the toner particle (6) is 5.8 μm.

Manufacturing of Silica Particle

Silica Particle (1)

[0231] 150 parts of tetramethoxysilane, 100 parts of ion exchange water, and 100 parts of 25 mass% of alcohol are mixed. 150 parts of 25 mass% aqueous ammonia are added dropwise over five hours while maintaining the liquid temperature of the mixed solution at 30°C and stirring with a stirring blade at a stirring speed of 200 rpm to prepare a silica sol suspension. The silica sol suspension is centrifuged in wet silica gel and the solvent and the wet silica gel is dried at 120°C for two hours so as to obtain silica. 100 parts of silica and 500 parts of ethanol are placed in an evaporator, and the mixture is stirred for 15 minutes while maintaining the temperature at 40°C. Subsequently, 10 parts of dimethyldimethoxysilane are added to 100 parts of silica, and the mixture is further stirred for 15 minutes. Subsequently, the temperature in the system is increased to 90°C to remove ethanol, and the surface-treated silica is taken out and vacuum-dried at 120°C for 30 minutes. The dried silica is pulverized so as to obtain a silica particle (1).

Silica Particle (2)

[0232] A silica particle (2) is manufactured in the same manner as the manufacturing of the silica particle (1), except for changing the stirring speed in a case where 150 parts of 25 mass% ammonia water are added dropwise to 240 rpm.

Silica Particle (3)

[0233] A silica particle (3) is manufactured in the same manner as the manufacturing of the silica particle (1), except for changing the stirring speed in a case where 150 parts of 25 mass% ammonia water are added dropwise to 150 rpm.

Silica Particle (4)

[0234] A silica particle (4) is manufactured in the same manner as the manufacturing of the silica particle (1), except for changing the stirring speed in a case where 150 parts of 25 mass% ammonia water are added dropwise to 280 rpm.

Silica Particle (5)

[0235] A silica particle (5) is manufactured in the same manner as the manufacturing of the silica particle (1), except for changing the stirring speed in a case where 150 parts of 25 mass% ammonia water are added dropwise to 95 rpm.

Manufacturing of Strontium Titanate Particle

Strontium Titanate Particle (1)

[0236] 0.7 mol of metatitanic acid which is a desulfurized and deflocculated titanium source as TiO_2 is sampled and put into a reaction container. Subsequently, 0.77 mol of a strontium chloride aqueous solution is added to the reaction container such that the SrO/TiO_2 molar ratio becomes 1.1. Subsequently, a solution obtained by dissolving lanthanum oxide in nitric acid is added to the reaction container in an amount in which lanthanum becomes 2.5 moles with respect to 100 moles of strontium. The initial concentration of TiO_2 in the mixed solution of the three materials is caused to be 0.75 mol/L. Subsequently, the mixed solution is stirred, the mixed solution is heated to 90°C, the temperature of the liquid is maintained at 90°C, 153 mL of a 10 N sodium hydroxide aqueous solution is added over 3.8 hours under stirring, and stirring is continuously performed over one hour while the temperature of the liquid is maintained at 90°C. Subsequently, the reaction solution is cooled to 40°C, hydrochloric acid is added until pH becomes 5.5, and stirring is performed over one hour. Subsequently, the precipitate is washed by repeating decantation and redispersion in water. Hydrochloric acid is added to the slurry containing the washed precipitate, pH is adjusted to 6.5, solid-liquid separation is performed by filtration, and the solid content is dried. An ethanol solution of i-butyltrimethoxysilane is added to the dried solid content in an amount that i-butyltrimethoxysilane becomes 20 parts with respect to 100 parts of the solid content, and stirring is performed for one hour. Solid-liquid separation is performed by filtration, and the solid content is dried over seven hours in the atmosphere of 130°C, so as to obtain a strontium titanate particle (1).

Strontium Titanate Particle (2)

[0237] A strontium titanate particle (2) is manufactured in the same manner as the manufacturing of the strontium titanate particles (1), except for changing the time for the dropwise addition of the 10 N sodium hydroxide aqueous solution to 0.7 hours.

Strontium Titanate Particle (3)

[0238] A strontium titanate particle (3) is manufactured in the same manner as the manufacturing of the strontium titanate particles (1), except for changing the time for the dropwise addition of the 10 N sodium hydroxide aqueous solution to one hour.

Strontium Titanate Particle (4)

[0239] A strontium titanate particle (4) is manufactured in the same manner as the manufacturing of the strontium titanate particles (1), except for changing the time for the dropwise addition of the 10 N sodium hydroxide aqueous solution to three hours.

Strontium Titanate Particle (5)

[0240] A strontium titanate particle (5) is manufactured in the same manner as the manufacturing of the strontium titanate particles (1), except for changing the time for the dropwise addition of the 10 N sodium hydroxide aqueous solution to 9.5 hours.

Strontium Titanate Particle (6)

[0241] A strontium titanate particle (6) is manufactured in the same manner as the manufacturing of the strontium titanate particles (1), except for changing the time for the dropwise addition of the 10 N sodium hydroxide aqueous solution to 12 hours.

Strontium Titanate Particle (7)

[0242] A strontium titanate particle (7) is manufactured in the same manner as the manufacturing of the strontium titanate particles (1), except for changing the time for the dropwise addition of the 10 N sodium hydroxide aqueous solution to 15 hours.

Strontium Titanate Particle (8)

[0243] SW-360 manufactured by Titan Kogyo, Ltd. is prepared as a strontium titanate particle (8). SW-360 is a strontium titanate particle which is not doped with a metal element and of which surface is untreated.

Strontium Titanate Particle (9)

[0244] A strontium titanate particle (9) is manufactured in the same manner as the manufacturing of the strontium titanate particle (1), except for changing the amount of lanthanum to 9.5 moles with respect to 100 moles of strontium.

Strontium Titanate Particle (10)

[0245] A strontium titanate particle (10) is manufactured in the same manner as the manufacturing of the strontium titanate particle (1), except for changing the amount of lanthanum to 0.5 moles with respect to 100 moles of strontium.

Strontium Titanate Particle (11)

[0246] A strontium titanate particle (11) is manufactured in the same manner as the manufacturing of the strontium titanate particle (1), except for changing the solution obtained by dissolving lanthanum oxide in nitric acid to a solution obtained by dissolving niobium oxide in nitric acid and adding the solution obtained by dissolving niobium oxide in nitric acid in an amount in which niobium becomes 2.5 moles with respect to 100 mol of strontium, in order to change the element to be doped from lanthanum to niobium.

Preparing of Titanium Oxide Particle

[0247] JMT-150IB manufactured by Tayca Corporation is prepared as the titanium oxide particle (1). JMT-150IB is a titanium oxide particle of which surface is hydrophobized with isobutylsilane.

Manufacturing of Carrier

[0248]

- Ferrite particle (average particle diameter: 35 μm): 100 parts
- Toluene: 14 parts
- Styrene-methyl methacrylate copolymer (copolymer ratio 15/85): 2 parts
- Carbon black: 0.2 parts

[0249] The materials except the ferrite particle are dispersed with a sand mill to prepare a dispersion, the dispersion is put into a vacuum degassing type kneader together with a ferrite particle and dried under reduced pressure under stirring so as to obtain a carrier.

[0250] Manufacturing of Toner and Developer: Examples 1 to 49 and Comparative Examples 1 to 14

[0251] 2 parts of any one of the silica particles (1) to (5) and 1 part of any one of the strontium titanate particles (1) to (11) or the titanium oxide particle (1) are added to 100 parts of any one of the toner particles (1) to (6) in the combinations presented in Tables 1 to 3, and mixing is performed for 15 minutes at a stirring circumferential speed of 30 m/seconds by using a HENSCHTEL MIXER. Subsequently, sieving is performed by using an oscillating sieve having an opening of 45 μm , so as to obtain an externally added toner.

[0252] 10 parts of the externally added toner and 100 parts of the carrier are introduced to a V blender and stirred for 20 minutes. Thereafter, sieving is performed with a sieve having an opening of 212 μm so as to obtain a developer.

Analysis of Toner

Shape Properties of Toner Particle

[0253] Toner particles before externally adding external additives are analyzed with a flow type particle image analyzer (FPIA-3000, manufactured by Sysmex Corporation), circularity = (perimeter of a circle having the same area as the particle projected image) / (a circumferential length of the particle projected image) is determined, and the circularity which becomes 50% of the accumulation from the small side in the circularity distribution of 3000 toner particles is caused to be the average circularity of the toner particles.

Shape Properties of Silica Particles

[0254] An image of the toner to which an external additive containing silica particles is externally added is captured at a magnification of 40,000 times by using a scanning electron microscope (SEM) equipped with an energy dispersive X-ray analyzer (EDX device) (EMAX Evolution X-Max 80 mm², manufactured by Horiba Ltd.) (S-4800, manufactured by Hitachi High-Technologies Corporation). 300 or more primary particles of silica are specified by EDX analysis from within one visual field based on the presence of Si. Observation is performed with the SEM at an accelerating voltage of 15 kV, an emission current of 20 μA , and WD of 15 mm, and the EDX analysis is conducted under the same conditions for a detection time of 60 minutes.

[0255] The specified silica particle is analyzed with image processing analysis software WinRoof (Mitani Corporation) and a circle equivalent diameter, an area, and a perimeter of each primary particle image are obtained, so as to obtain Circularity = $4\pi \times (\text{area}) / (\text{peripheral length})^2$. In the circle equivalent diameter distribution, the equivalent circle diameter which becomes 50% of the accumulation from the small diameter side is caused to be the average primary particle diameter, the circularity which becomes 50% of the accumulation from the smaller side in the circularity distribution is caused to be the average circularity.

[0256] In all examples, the particle size distribution of the silica particle is monodispersed.

Shape Properties of Strontium Titanate Particle

[0257] Separately prepared toner particles and strontium titanate particles are mixed for 15 minutes at a stirring circumferential speed of 30 m/sec using a HENSCHTEL MIXER. Subsequently, sieving is performed by using an oscillating sieve having an opening of 45 μm , so as to obtain an externally added toner to which strontium titanate particles are attached.

[0258] An image of the externally added toner is taken at a magnification of 40,000 times by using a scanning electron microscope (SEM) (S-4700 manufactured by Hitachi High-Technologies Corporation). Image information of 300 randomly selected strontium titanate particles is analyzed with an image processing analysis software WinRoof (Mitani Corporation) via an interface, and the circle equivalent diameter, the area, and the perimeter of each primary particle image are calculated, so as to obtain circularity = $4\pi \times (\text{area}) / (\text{circumference length})^2$. In the circle equivalent diameter distribution, the circle equivalent diameter which becomes 50% of the accumulation from the small diameter side is caused to be the average primary particle diameter, the circularity which becomes 50% of the accumulation from the smaller side in the circularity distribution is caused to be the average circularity, and circularity which becomes 84% of the accumulation from the smaller side in the circularity distribution is caused to be the cumulative 84% circularity.

[0259] In the case of obtaining the shape properties of the strontium titanate particles from the toner to which the strontium titanate particles and the silica particles are externally added, after the silica particles are removed from the toner, the strontium titanate particles are separated from the toner, and the shape of the separated strontium titanate particles may be measured. Specifically, the following processing and measurement methods may be applied.

[0260] In a 200 mL glass bottle, 40 mL of a 0.2 mass% aqueous solution of TRITON X-100 (manufactured by Acros Organics B.V.B.A.) and 2 g of a toner are introduced and stirring is performed 500 times, so as to be dispersed. Subsequently, ultrasonic waves are applied by using an ultrasonic homogenizer (US-300AT, manufactured by Nippon Seiki Co., Ltd.) while the liquid temperature of the dispersion is maintained at $20^\circ\text{C} \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$. Ultrasonic wave application is continuously performed for application time: 300 seconds, output: 75 W, amplitude: 180 μm , and a distance between the ultrasonic transducer and the bottom of the container: 10 mm. Subsequently, the dispersion is centrifuged at 3,000 rpm for 2 minutes at a cooling temperature of 0°C by using a small high-speed cooling centrifuger (manufactured by Sakuma Seisakusho Co., Ltd, M201-IVD), the supernatant is removed, and the remaining slurry is filtrated through filter paper (manufactured by Advantech Co., Ltd., qualitative filter paper No. 5C, 110 nm). The residue on the filter paper is

washed twice with ion exchanged water and dried to obtain a toner from which silica particles having a relatively large particle size and a small specific gravity are removed.

[0261] Subsequently, in a 200 mL glass bottle, 40 mL of a 0.2 mass% aqueous solution of TRITON X-100 (manufactured by Acros Organics B.V.B.A.) and 2 g of the toner after the treatment are introduced and stirring is performed 500 times, so as to be dispersed. Subsequently, ultrasonic waves are applied by using an ultrasonic homogenizer (US-300AT, manufactured by Nippon Seiki Co., Ltd.) while the liquid temperature of the dispersion is maintained at $20^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$. Ultrasonic wave application is continuously performed for application time: 30 seconds, output: 75 W, amplitude: 180 μm , and a distance between the ultrasonic transducer and the bottom of the container: 10 mm. Subsequently, the dispersion is centrifuged at 3,000 rpm for 2 minutes at a cooling temperature of 0°C by using a small high-speed cooling centrifuger (manufactured by Sakuma Seisakusho Co., Ltd, M201-IVD), so as to obtain a supernatant. After suction filtration is performed on the supernatant with a membrane filter (manufactured by Merck & Co., MF-Millipore membrane filter VSWP, pore size 0.025 μm), the residue on the membrane filter is dried so as to obtain strontium titanate particles.

[0262] The strontium titanate particles collected on the membrane filter are adhered onto a carbon support membrane (U1015, manufactured by EM Japan Co., Ltd.), air-blown, and then images are taken at a magnification of 320,000 times by using a transmission-type electron microscope (TEM) (Talos F200S, manufactured by FEI Co., Ltd.) equipped with an EDX apparatus (EMAX Evolution X-Max 80 mm², manufactured by Horiba Ltd.). 300 or more primary particles of strontium titanate are specified by EDX analysis from within one visual field based on the presence of Ti and Sr. Observation is performed with the TEM at an accelerating voltage of 200 kV and an emission current of 0.5 nA, and the EDX analysis is conducted under the same conditions for a detection time of 60 minutes.

[0263] Image information of specified strontium titanate particles is analyzed with an image processing analysis software WinRoof (Mitani Corporation) via an interface, and the circle equivalent diameter, the area, and the perimeter of each primary particle image are calculated, so as to obtain circularity = $4\pi \times (\text{area}) / (\text{circumference length})^2$. In the circle equivalent diameter distribution, the circle equivalent diameter which becomes 50% of the accumulation from the small diameter side is caused to be the average primary particle diameter, the circularity which becomes 50% of the accumulation from the smaller side in the circularity distribution is caused to be the average circularity, and circularity which becomes 84% of the accumulation from the smaller side in the circularity distribution is caused to be the cumulative 84% circularity.

X-ray Diffraction of Strontium Titanate Particle

[0264] Each of the strontium titanate particles (1) to (11) before being externally added to the toner particles is subjected to the crystal structure analysis as a sample, by the X-ray diffraction method under the measurement conditions. The strontium titanate particles (1) to (11) have peaks corresponding to the peak of the (110) plane of the perovskite crystal near the diffraction angle of $2\theta = 32^{\circ}$. The half-widths of the peaks of the (110) plane are the following values, respectively.

- Strontium titanate particle (1): peak half-width 0.35°
- Strontium titanate particle (2): peak half-width 0.95°
- Strontium titanate particle (3): peak half-width 0.70°
- Strontium titanate particle (4): peak half-width 0.45°
- Strontium titanate particle (5): peak half-width 0.30°
- Strontium titanate particle (6): peak half-width 0.26°
- Strontium titanate particle (7): peak half-width 0.23°
- Strontium titanate particle (8): peak half-width 0.15°
- Strontium titanate particle (9): peak half-width 0.55°
- Strontium titanate particle (10): peak half-width 0.22°
- Strontium titanate particle (11): peak half-width 0.37°

Moisture Content of Strontium Titanate Particle

[0265] A moisture content is measured in the measuring method by using the strontium titanate particles before being externally added to the toner particles as a sample. The strontium titanate particles (1) to (7) and (9) to (11) are in the moisture content range of 2 mass% or more and 5 mass% or less.

Evaluation of Toner and Developer

Fluidity of Toner

[0266] The fluidity of the toner is evaluated by using POWDER RHEOMETER (FT4 manufactured by Freeman tech-

nology). As a rotary blade, a two-bladed propeller type blade having a diameter of 48 mm manufactured by Freeman technology is used.

[0267] The toner is left in an environment at a temperature of 22°C/50% relative humidity for eight hours or longer, and is introduced to a 200 mL container having an inner diameter of 50 mm and a height of 140 mm. While air is introduced at a ventilation flow rate of 50 mL/min from the bottom part of the container, while a rotating blade rotating at a tip speed of 100 mm/s is moved at a height of 110 mm to 10 mm from the bottom surface of the container at an entry angle of -5°, and a rotational torque and a vertical load are measured.

[0268] An area obtained by calculating an energy gradient (mJ/mm) at the height H from the rotational torque or the vertical load with respect to the height H from the bottom surface and integrating the energy gradient becomes a total energy amount (mJ). In this exemplary embodiment, a section from the height of 10 mm to 110 mm from the bottom surface is integrated to obtain the total energy amount. The average value obtained by performing the cycle of conditioning and energy measurement operation 5 times is set as a total energy amount (mJ). The total energy amount (mJ) is classified as follows. A and B are acceptable ranges. Results thereof are as presented in Tables 1 to 3.

- A: Less than 20 mJ
- B: 20 mJ or more and less than 25 mJ
- C: 25 mJ or more and less than 30 mJ
- D: 30 mJ or more

Cleaning Properties

[0269] A modified machine of 700 Digital Color Press manufactured by Fuji Xerox Co., Ltd. is charged with a developer and left for 24 hours under low temperature and low humidity (temperature: 10°C/relative humidity: 20%), and 100,000 copies of an image with an image area ratio of 1% are continuously printed on A4 size plain paper. 100 sheets of 99,901 to 100,000 sheets are visually observed and the generation of color stripes is classified as below. A and B are acceptable ranges. Results thereof are as presented in Tables 1 to 3.

- A: Color stripes are not generated
- B: Color stripes are generated in 1 sheet or more and 5 sheets or less
- C: Color stripes are generated in 6 sheets or more and 10 sheets or less
- D: Color stripes are generated in 11 sheets or more

Transferability

[0270] A modified machine of 700 Digital Color Press manufactured by Fuji Xerox Co., Ltd. is charged with a developer. The development potential is adjusted such that the toner deposition amount on the photoconductor becomes 5 g/m², in low temperature/low humidity (temperature 10°C/relative humidity 20%), and 1,000 sheets of an image with an image area ratio of 5% are continuously printed to A4 size plain paper. Subsequently, in a case where one sheet is printed, the evaluation machine is stopped immediately after the toner image on the photoconductor is transferred to the intermediate transfer member (intermediate transfer belt) (that is, before the photoconductor was cleaned). The toner remaining on the photosensitive member without being transferred is taken with a mending tape and a weight thereof is measured. The initial transfer efficiency is obtained by Equation (1) from the toner deposition amount at the time of development and the residual amount of the toner and classified as follows. A and B are acceptable ranges. Results thereof are as presented in Tables 1 to 3.

$$\text{Equation (1): Transfer efficiency} = (\text{toner deposition amount at the time of development} - \text{residual amount of the toner}) / \text{toner deposition amount at the time of development} \times 100$$

- A: Transfer efficiency is 98% or more
- B: Transfer efficiency is 95% or more and less than 98%
- C: Transfer efficiency is 90% or more and less than 95%
- D: Transfer efficiency is less than 90%

Transfer Maintainability

[0271] After 50,000 sheets are continuously printed under low temperature and low humidity (temperature 10°C/relative humidity 20%), the test is performed, and the transfer efficiency after 50,000 sheets are printed is determined by Formula (1). Transfer maintainability is obtained by Equation (2) and classified as follows. A and B are acceptable ranges. Results thereof are as presented in Tables 1 to 3.

Equation (2): Transfer maintainability = Transfer efficiency after 50,000 sheets are printed / Initial transfer efficiency × 100

- A: Transfer maintainability is 98% or more
- B: Transfer maintainability is 95% or more and less than 98%
- C: Transfer maintainability is 90% or more and less than 95%
- D: Transfer maintainability is less than 90%

Uneven distribution of silica particle to recessed part

[0272] A modified machine of 700 Digital Color Press manufactured by Fuji Xerox Co., Ltd. is charged with a developer and left for 24 hours under low temperature and low humidity (temperature: 10°C/relative humidity: 20%), and 10,000 copies of an image with an image area ratio of 1% are continuously printed. The toner remaining in the developing machine is collected, 100 toner particles are observed with a scanning electron microscope (S-4100, manufactured by Hitachi High-Technologies Corporation), and the number of silica particles present in protrusions and recessed parts of the toner particle is counted. An average number a of silica particles per unit area in the protrusion and an average number b of silica particles per unit area in the recessed parts are calculated and classified as follows. A and B are acceptable ranges. Results thereof are as presented in Tables 1 to 3.

- A: a/b is more than 1
- B: a/b is more than 0.8 and 1 or less
- C: a/b is more than 0.6 and 0.8 or less
- D: a/b is 0.6 or less

Table 1]

	Toner particle		Silica particle		Titanium oxide particle		Strontium titanate particle						Fluidity of toner	Cleaning properties	Initial transferability	Transfer maintainability	Uneven distribution of silica particle	
	No.	Average circularity	Average primary particle diameter [nm]	Average circularity	No.	Average primary particle diameter [nm]	No.	Average primary particle diameter [nm]	Average circularity	Cumulative 84% circularity	Dopant	Doping amount [mol%]						
Comparative Example 1	(1)	0.964	(1)	140	0.965	(1)	55	-						A	A	A (99%)	D (89%)	D
Example 1	(1)	0.964	(1)	140	0.965		-	(1)	50	0.880	0.935	La	2.5	A	A	A (99%)	A (99%)	A
Example 2	(1)	0.964	(1)	140	0.965		-	(2)	18	0.936	0.960	La	2.5	A	A	A (99%)	B (95%)	B
Example 3	(1)	0.964	(1)	140	0.965		-	(3)	25	0.920	0.954	La	2.5	A	A	A (99%)	B (96%)	B
Example 4	(1)	0.964	(1)	140	0.965		-	(4)	40	0.900	0.941	La	2.5	A	A	A (99%)	A (99%)	A
Example 5	(1)	0.964	(1)	140	0.965		-	(5)	75	0.845	0.930	La	2.5	B	A	A (99%)	A (98%)	A
Example 6	(1)	0.964	(1)	140	0.965		-	(6)	85	0.836	0.925	La	2.5	B	A	A (99%)	B (97%)	B
Example 7	(1)	0.964	(1)	140	0.965		-	(7)	98	0.825	0.923	La	2.5	B	A	A (99%)	B (96%)	B
Example 8	(1)	0.964	(1)	140	0.965		-	(9)	50	0.940	0.950	La	9.5	A	A	A (99%)	A (99%)	A
Example 9	(1)	0.964	(1)	140	0.965		-	(10)	50	0.860	0.925	La	0.5	A	A	A (99%)	B (96%)	B
Example 10	(1)	0.964	(1)	140	0.965		-	(11)	50	0.890	0.940	Nb	2.5	A	A	A (99%)	B (96%)	B
Comparative Example 2	(1)	0.964	(1)	140	0.965		-	(8)	80	0.888	0.916	-		B	A	A (99%)	D (89%)	D
Comparative Example 3	(2)	0.925	(1)	140	0.965	(1)	55	-						B	A	B (96%)	D (89%)	D
Example 11	(2)	0.925	(1)	140	0.965		-	(1)	50	0.880	0.935	La	2.5	B	A	B (96%)	A (98%)	A
Example 12	(2)	0.925	(1)	140	0.965		-	(2)	18	0.936	0.960	La	2.5	A	A	B (96%)	B (95%)	B
Example 13	(2)	0.925	(1)	140	0.965		-	(3)	25	0.920	0.954	La	2.5	A	A	B (96%)	B (95%)	B
Example 14	(2)	0.925	(1)	140	0.965		-	(4)	40	0.900	0.941	La	2.5	A	A	B (96%)	A (98%)	A

(continued)

	Toner particle		Silica particle		Titanium oxide particle		Strontium titanate particle						Clean- ing prop- er- ties	Initial trans- ferability	Transfer maintain- abil- ity	Uneven distribu- tion of silica particle
	No.	Average circularity	No.	Average primary particle diameter [nm]	Average circularity	No.	Average primary particle diameter [nm]	No.	Average primary particle diameter [nm]	Average circularity	Cumula- tive 84% circularity	Dopant amount [mol%]				
Example 15	(2)	0.925	(1)	140	0.965	-	-	(5)	75	0.845	0.930	La	2.5	B (96%)	B (97%)	B
Example 16	(2)	0.925	(1)	140	0.965	-	-	(6)	85	0.836	0.925	La	2.5	B (96%)	B (96%)	B
Example 17	(2)	0.925	(1)	140	0.965	-	-	(7)	98	0.825	0.923	La	2.5	B (96%)	B (96%)	B
Compara- tive Exam- ple 4	(2)	0.925	(1)	140	0.965	-	-	(8)	80	0.888	0.916	-	-	B (96%)	D (89%)	D

Table 2]

	Toner particle		Silica particle		Titanium oxide particle		Strontium titanate particle						Fluidity of toner	Cleaning properties	Initial transferability	Transfer maintainability	Uneven distribution of silica particle	
	Average circularity	No.	Average primary particle diameter [nm]	Average circularity	No.	Average primary particle diameter [nm]	No.	Average primary particle diameter [nm]	Average circularity	Cumulative 84% circularity	Dopant	Doping amount [mol%]						
Comparative Example 5	(3)	0.957	(1)	140	0.965	(1)	55	-						A	A	A (98%)	D (89%)	D
Example 18	(3)	0.957	(1)	140	0.965		-	(1)	50	0.880	0.935	La	2.5	A	A	A (98%)	A (99%)	A
Example 19	(3)	0.957	(1)	140	0.965		-	(2)	18	0.936	0.960	La	2.5	A	A	A (98%)	B (95%)	B
Example 20	(3)	0.957	(1)	140	0.965		-	(3)	25	0.920	0.954	La	2.5	A	A	A (98%)	B (96%)	B
Example 21	(3)	0.957	(1)	140	0.965		-	(4)	40	0.900	0.941	La	2.5	A	A	A (98%)	A (99%)	A
Example 22	(3)	0.957	(1)	140	0.965		-	(5)	75	0.845	0.930	La	2.5	B	A	A (98%)	A (98%)	A
Example 23	(3)	0.957	(1)	140	0.965		-	(6)	85	0.836	0.925	La	2.5	B	A	A (98%)	B (97%)	B
Example 24	(3)	0.957	(1)	140	0.965		-	(7)	98	0.825	0.923	La	2.5	B	A	A (98%)	B (96%)	B
Comparative Example 6	(3)	0.957	(1)	140	0.965		-	(8)	80	0.888	0.916	-		B	A	A (98%)	D (89%)	D
Comparative Example 7	(4)	0.972	(1)	140	0.965	(1)	55	-						A	B	A (100%)	D (89%)	D
Example 25	(4)	0.972	(1)	140	0.965		-	(1)	50	0.880	0.935	La	2.5	A	B	A (100%)	A (99%)	A
Example 26	(4)	0.972	(1)	140	0.965		-	(2)	18	0.936	0.960	La	2.5	A	B	A (100%)	B (95%)	B
Example 27	(4)	0.972	(1)	140	0.965		-	(3)	25	0.920	0.954	La	2.5	A	B	A (100%)	B (96%)	B
Example 28	(4)	0.972	(1)	140	0.965		-	(4)	40	0.900	0.941	La	2.5	A	B	A (100%)	A (99%)	A
Example 29	(4)	0.972	(1)	140	0.965		-	(5)	75	0.845	0.930	La	2.5	B	B	A (100%)	A (98%)	A
Example 30	(4)	0.972	(1)	140	0.965		-	(6)	85	0.836	0.925	La	2.5	B	B	A (100%)	B (97%)	B
Example 31	(4)	0.972	(1)	140	0.965		-	(7)	98	0.825	0.923	La	2.5	B	B	A (100%)	B (96%)	B

(continued)

	Toner particle		Silica particle		Titanium oxide particle		Strontium titanate particle						Fluidity of toner	Cleaning properties	Initial transferability	Transfer maintainability	Uneven distribution of silica particle
	No.	Average circularity	Average primary particle diameter [nm]	Average circularity	No.	Average primary particle diameter [nm]	No.	Average primary particle diameter [nm]	Average circularity	Cumulative 84% circularity	Dopant	Doping amount [mol%]					
Comparative Example 8	(4)	0.972	(1)	140	0.965	-	-	(8)	80	0.888	0.916	-	B	B	A (100%)	D (89%)	D
Comparative Example 9	(5)	0.895	(1)	140	0.965	-	-	(1)	50	0.880	0.935	La	2.5	C	D (88%)	C (93%)	C
Comparative Example 10	(6)	0.990	(1)	140	0.965	-	-	(1)	50	0.880	0.935	La	2.5	A	A (100%)	A (98%)	A

Table 3]

	Toner particle		Silica particle		Titanium oxide particle		Strontium titanate particle						Fluidity of toner	Cleaning properties	Initial transferability	Transfer maintainability	Uneven distribution of silica particle	
	No.	Average circularity	Average primary particle diameter [nm]	Average circularity	No.	Average primary particle diameter [nm]	No.	Average primary particle diameter [nm]	Average circularity	Cumulative circularity	Dopant amount	Doping amount [mol%]						
Comparative Example 11	(1)	0.964	(2)	90	0.932	(1)	55	-						A	A	B (97%)	D (89%)	D
Example 32	(1)	0.964	(2)	90	0.932		-	(1)	50	0.880	0.935	La	2.5	A	A	B (97%)	A (98%)	A
Example 33	(1)	0.964	(2)	90	0.932		-	(2)	18	0.936	0.960	La	2.5	A	A	B (97%)	B (97%)	B
Example 34	(1)	0.964	(2)	90	0.932		-	(3)	25	0.920	0.954	La	2.5	A	A	B (97%)	B (97%)	B
Example 35	(1)	0.964	(2)	90	0.932		-	(4)	40	0.900	0.941	La	2.5	A	A	B (97%)	A (98%)	A
Example 36	(1)	0.964	(2)	90	0.932		-	(5)	75	0.845	0.930	La	2.5	A	A	B (97%)	B (96%)	B
Example 37	(1)	0.964	(2)	90	0.932		-	(6)	85	0.836	0.925	La	2.5	B	A	B (97%)	B (95%)	B
Example 38	(1)	0.964	(2)	90	0.932		-	(7)	98	0.825	0.923	La	2.5	B	A	B (97%)	B (95%)	B
Comparative Example 12	(1)	0.964	(2)	90	0.932		-	(8)	80	0.888	0.916	-		B	A	B (97%)	D (89%)	D
Comparative Example 13	(1)	0.964	(3)	180	0.985	(1)	55	-						B	B	A (98%)	D (89%)	D
Example 39	(1)	0.964	(3)	180	0.985		-	(1)	50	0.880	0.935	La	2.5	B	B	A (98%)	A (98%)	A
Example 40	(1)	0.964	(3)	180	0.985		-	(2)	18	0.936	0.960	La	2.5	A	B	A (98%)	B (97%)	B
Example 41	(1)	0.964	(3)	180	0.985		-	(3)	25	0.920	0.954	La	2.5	A	B	A (98%)	B (97%)	B
Example 42	(1)	0.964	(3)	180	0.985		-	(4)	40	0.900	0.941	La	2.5	A	B	A (98%)	A (98%)	A
Example 43	(1)	0.964	(3)	180	0.985		-	(5)	75	0.845	0.930	La	2.5	B	B	A (99%)	B (97%)	B
Example 44	(1)	0.964	(3)	180	0.985		-	(6)	85	0.836	0.925	La	2.5	B	B	A (98%)	A (98%)	A

(continued)

	Toner particle		Silica particle		Titanium oxide particle		Strontium titanate particle						Fluidity of toner	Cleaning properties	Initial transferability	Transfer maintainability	Uneven distribution of silica particle
	No.	Average circularity	No.	Average primary particle diameter [nm]	Average circularity	No.	Average primary particle diameter [nm]	No.	Average primary particle diameter [nm]	Average circularity	Cumulative circularity	Dopant amount [mol%]					
Example 45	(1)	0.964	(3)	180	0.985	-	-	(7)	98	0.825	0.923	La	2.5	B	A (98%)	A (98%)	A
Comparative Example 14	(1)	0.964	(3)	180	0.985	-	-	(8)	80	0.888	0.916	-	-	B	A (98%)	D (89%)	D
Example 46	(1)	0.964	(4)	65	0.913	-	-	(1)	50	0.880	0.935	La	2.5	A	D (87%)	C (94%)	C
Example 47	(1)	0.964	(4)	65	0.913	-	-	(1)	50	0.880	0.935	La	2.5	A	D (87%)	C (94%)	C
Example 48	(1)	0.964	(5)	230	0.991	-	-	(1)	50	0.880	0.935	La	2.5	C	D (88%)	C (93%)	C
Example 49	(1)	0.964	(5)	230	0.991	-	-	(1)	50	0.880	0.935	La	2.5	C	D (88%)	C (93%)	C

The foregoing description of the exemplary embodiments of the present invention has been provided for the purposes of illustration and description. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise forms disclosed. Obviously, many modifications and variations will be apparent to practitioners skilled in the art. The embodiments were chosen and described in order to best explain the principles of the invention and its practical applications, thereby enabling others skilled in the art to understand the invention for various embodiments and with the various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated. It is intended that the scope of the invention be defined by the following claims and their equivalents.

Claims

1. An electrostatic charge image developing toner comprising:

a toner particle having average circularity of about 0.91 or more and about 0.98 or less;
 a silica particle externally added to the toner particle; and
 a strontium titanate particle that is externally added to the toner particle, that has an average primary particle diameter of about 10 nm or more and about 100 nm or less, that has average primary particle circularity of about 0.82 or more and about 0.94 or less, and circularity that becomes about 84% of accumulation of the primary particle of more than about 0.92.

2. The electrostatic charge image developing toner according to claim 1,
 wherein an average primary particle diameter of the strontium titanate particle is about 20 nm or more and about 80 nm or less.

3. The electrostatic charge image developing toner according to claim 2,
 wherein an average primary particle diameter of the strontium titanate particle is about 30 nm or more and about 60 nm or less.

4. The electrostatic charge image developing toner according to any one of claims 1 to 3,
 wherein in the strontium titanate particle, a half-width of a peak of a about 110 plane obtained by an X-ray diffraction method is about 0.2° or more and about 2.0° or less.

5. The electrostatic charge image developing toner according to any one of claims 1 to 4,
 wherein the strontium titanate particle is a strontium titanate particle doped with a metal element other than titanium and strontium.

6. The electrostatic charge image developing toner according to claim 5,
 wherein the strontium titanate particle is a strontium titanate particle doped with a metal element having electronegativity of about 2.0 or less.

7. The electrostatic charge image developing toner according to claim 6,
 wherein the strontium titanate particle is a strontium titanate particle doped with lanthanum.

8. The electrostatic charge image developing toner according to any one of claims 1 to 7,
 wherein a moisture content of the strontium titanate particle is about 1.5 mass% or more and about 10 mass% or less.

9. The electrostatic charge image developing toner according to claim 8,
 wherein a moisture content of the strontium titanate particle is about 2 mass% or more and about 5 mass% or less.

10. The electrostatic charge image developing toner according to any one of claims 1 to 9,
 wherein the strontium titanate particle is a strontium titanate particle having a hydrophobized surface.

11. The electrostatic charge image developing toner according to claim 10,
 wherein the strontium titanate particle is a strontium titanate particle having a surface hydrophobized with a silicon-containing organic compound.

12. The electrostatic charge image developing toner according to any one of claims 1 to 11,
 wherein average circularity of the toner particle is about 0.94 or more and about 0.98 or less.

13. The electrostatic charge image developing toner according to any one of claims 1 to 12,
wherein the silica particle has a primary particle diameter of about 70 nm or more and about 200 nm or less.

14. The electrostatic charge image developing toner according to claim 13,
wherein average primary particle circularity of the silica particle is about 0.90 or more and about 1.00 or less.

15. The electrostatic charge image developing toner according to claim 13 or 14,
wherein a difference between average primary particle circularity of the silica particle and average primary particle circularity of the strontium titanate particle is about 0.15 or less.

16. The electrostatic charge image developing toner according to any one of claims 13 to 15,
wherein a difference between an average primary particle diameter of the silica particle and an average primary particle diameter of the strontium titanate particle is about 20 nm or more and about 180 nm or less.

17. An electrostatic charge image developer comprising:
the electrostatic charge image developing toner according to any one of claims 1 to 16.

18. A toner cartridge comprising:

a container that accommodates the electrostatic charge image developing toner according to any one of claims 1 to 16,
wherein the toner cartridge is detachably attached to an image forming device.

19. A process cartridge comprising:

a developing unit, which houses the electrostatic charge image developer according to claim 17, and develops an electrostatic charge image formed on a surface of an image holder as a toner image by the electrostatic charge image developer,
wherein the process cartridge may be detachably attached to an image forming device.

20. An image forming device comprising:

an image holder;
a charging unit that charges a surface of the image holder;
an electrostatic charge image forming unit that forms an electrostatic charge image on the surface of the charged image holder;
a developing unit that houses the electrostatic charge image developer according to claim 17, and that develops the electrostatic charge image formed on the surface of the image holder as a toner image by the electrostatic charge image developer; a transfer unit, which transfers the toner image formed on the surface of the image holder onto a surface of a record medium; and
a fixing unit that fixes the transferred toner image onto the surface of the record medium.

21. An image forming method, including:

charging a surface of an image holder;
forming an electrostatic charge image on the surface of the charged image holder;
developing the electrostatic charge image formed on the surface of the image holder as a toner image by the electrostatic charge image developer according to claim 17;
transferring the toner image formed on the surface of the image holder onto a surface of a record medium; and
fixing the transferred toner image onto the surface of the record medium.

FIG. 1A

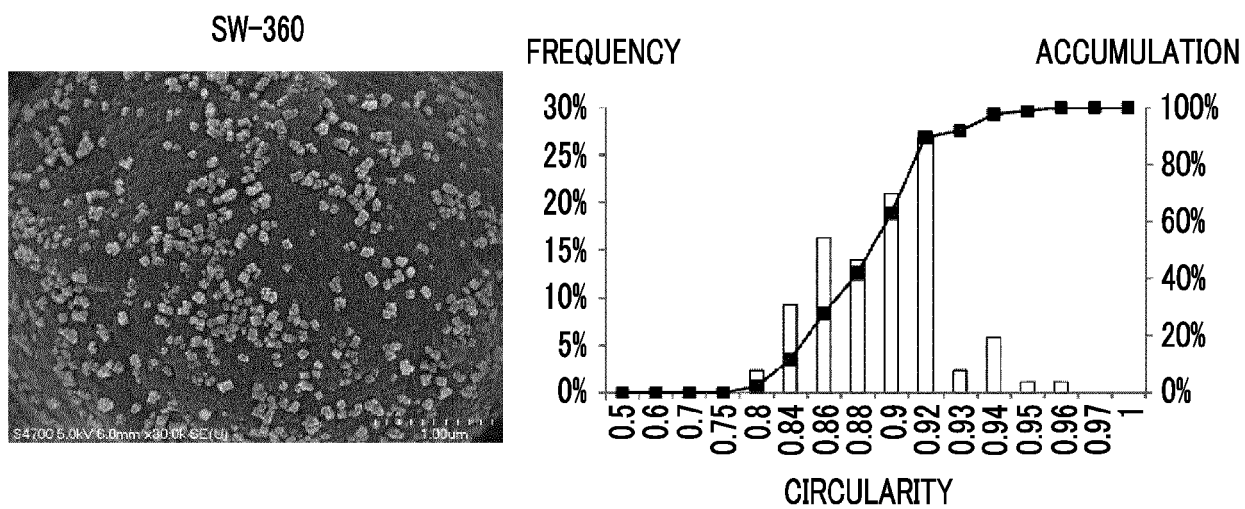


FIG. 1B

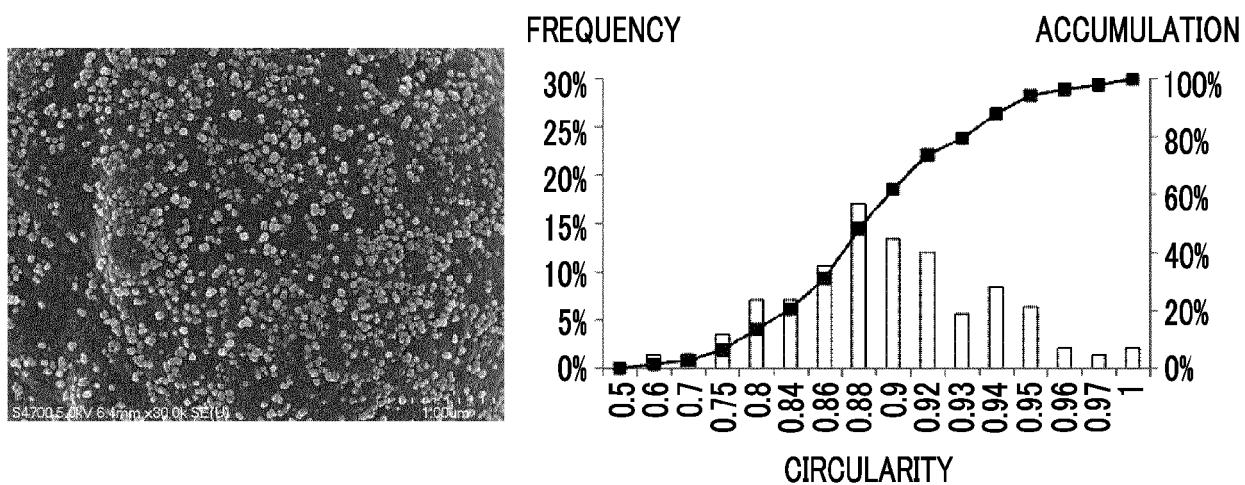


FIG. 2

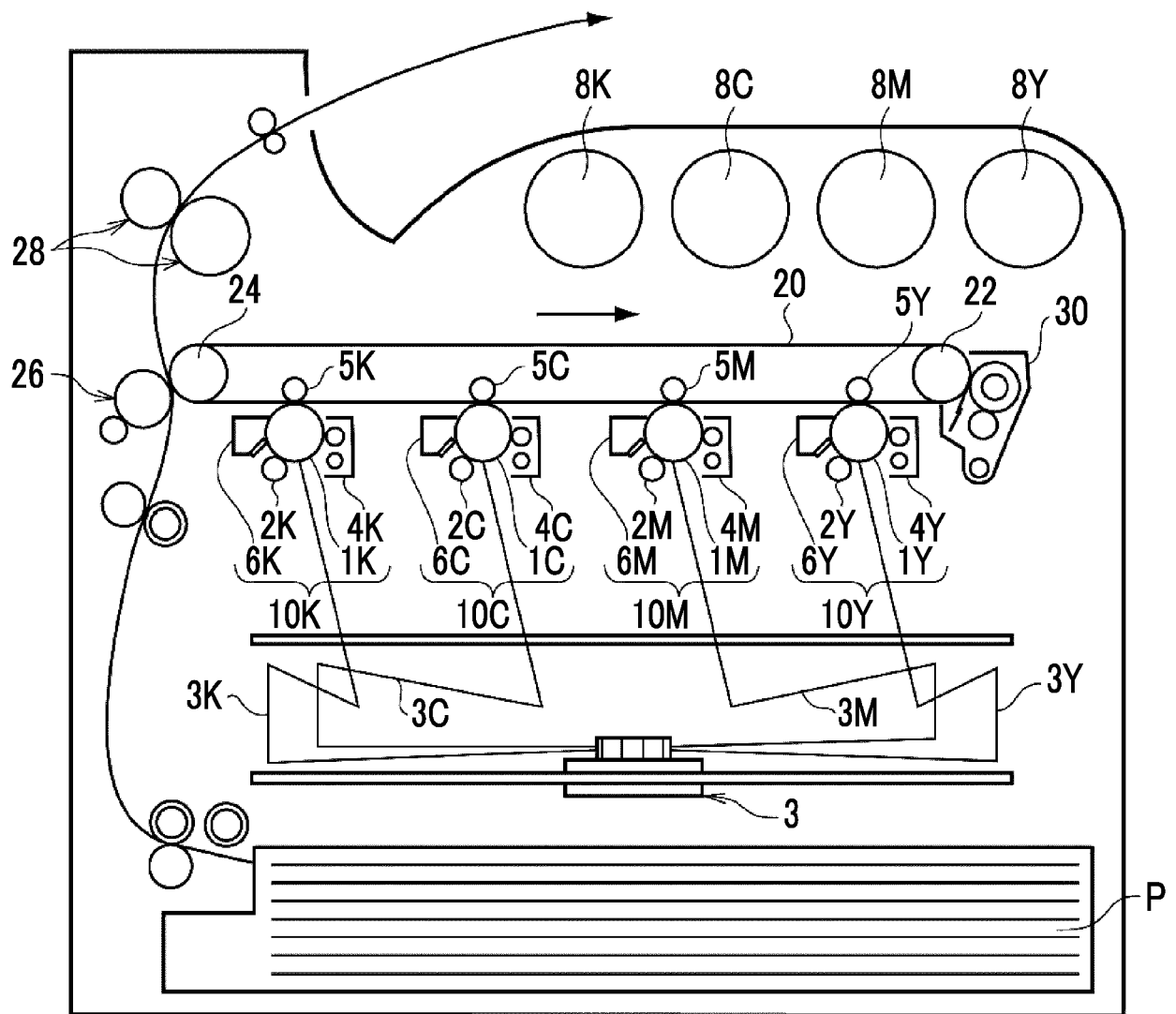
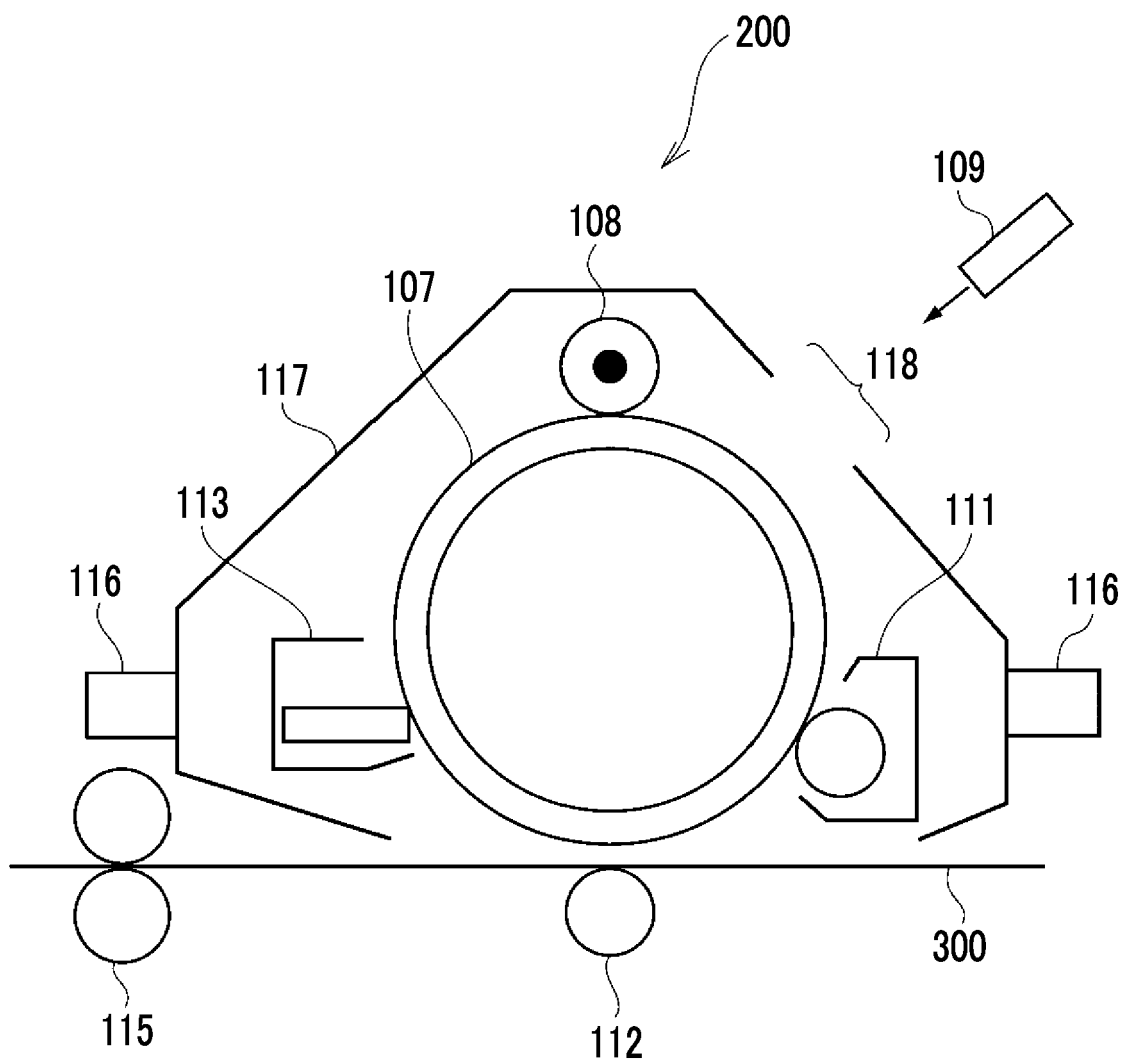


FIG. 3





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 18 18 4612

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Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 7 November 2018	Examiner Weiss, Felix
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